

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 112

20p



SUNSTEALERS

Earth relied on the solarways to ply her trade, but now an alien race wanted that power!

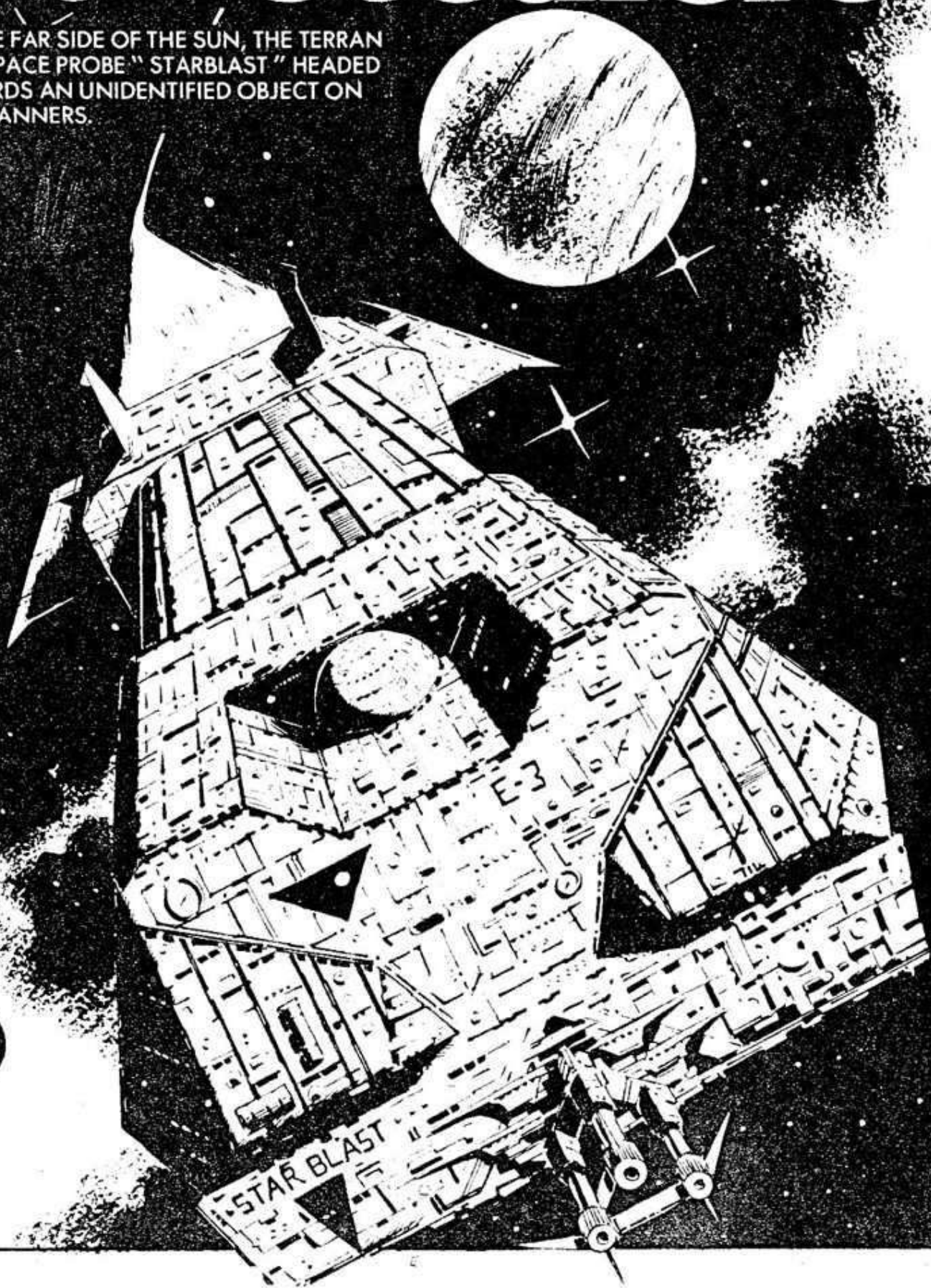
STARBLAZER



BY THE END OF THE THIRD MILLENIUM MAN HAD PROGRESSED TO THE OUTER FRINGES OF DEEP SPACE. IT WAS A TIME TO LOOK AHEAD TO EACH NEW DAY WITH A HOPE, A NEW VISION OF THE FUTURE IN STORE FOR MANKIND. BUT OTHERS, LIGHT YEARS FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM, HAD THEIR OWN PLANS FOR THE BRIGHT SUN WHICH WARMED THE INNER PLANETS. AND FROM THE DEPTHS OF SPACE CAME THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE—

Sunstealers

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE SUN, THE TERRAN DEEP SPACE PROBE "STARBLAST" HEADED TOWARDS AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT ON THE SCANNERS.



CAPTAIN TRENT, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE, TOOK MANUAL CONTROL OF THE STARBLAST.

THAT THING IS
A COMET.

» TRACK ON COMET KIJU CONFIRMED

HE SENT THE CRAFT IN A DEEP SPEEDING DIVE TOWARDS THE VERY HEART OF THE COMET.

ARM THE ANTI-MATTER CANNON.
WE ARE GOING IN.

ROCKS EXPLODED AS THEY MET THE FORWARD FORCE SHIELDS OF THE STARBLAST.

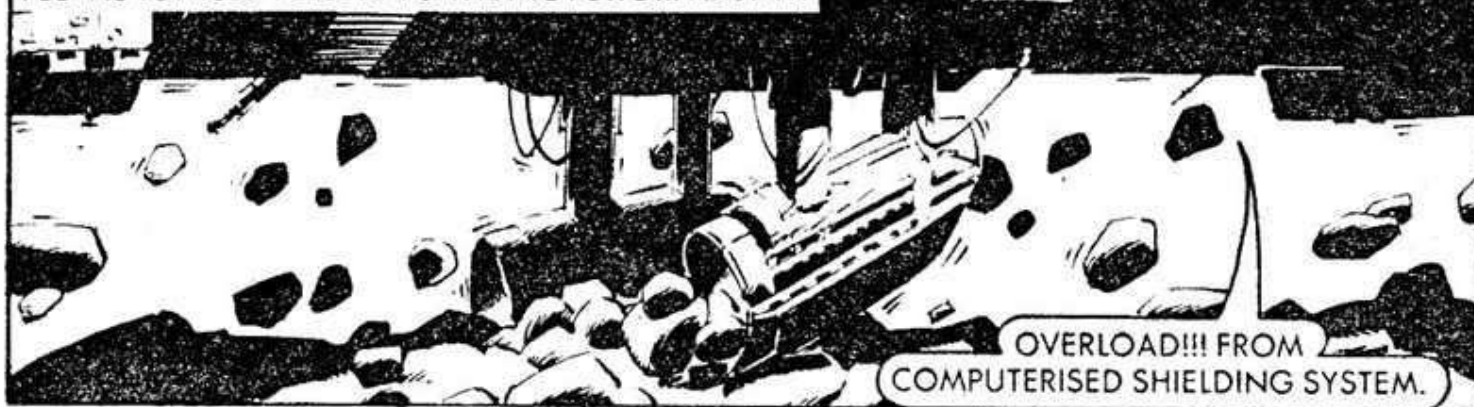
STEADY... STEADY.

STARBLAST REACHED THE CORE OF THE COMET KIJU.

LOWER THE RAMPODS... I MUST FILL THE PODS
FROM THE MATTER IN THE HEART OF THE COMET.



THE PODS SUCKED ANCIENT ROCKS INTO THE CRAFT WHERE THEY WERE CRUSHED AND FED AS IONISED PELLETS TO THE MOTOR DRIVE UNIT.



OVERLOAD!!! FROM
COMPUTERISED SHIELDING SYSTEM.

THE SHIELDS BEGAN TO GIVE WAY UNDER THE STRAIN.

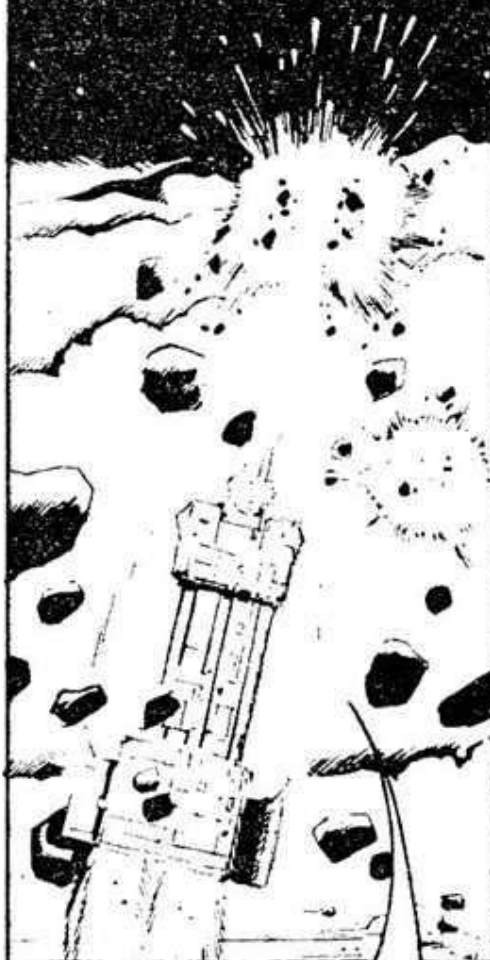
JUST A MOMENT LONGER.



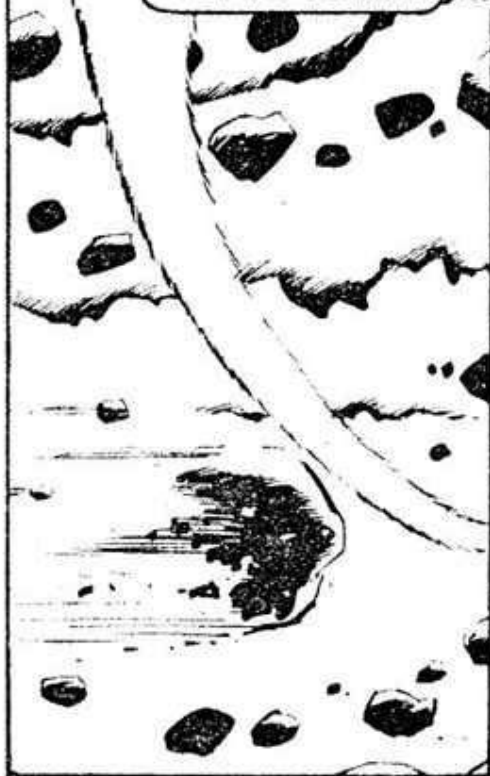
FORWARD SHIELDS ARE
OUT OF ACTION.

SWITCH TO
LASER FIRE.

TRENT BLASTED THE ASTEROID
FRAGMENTS CLEAR.



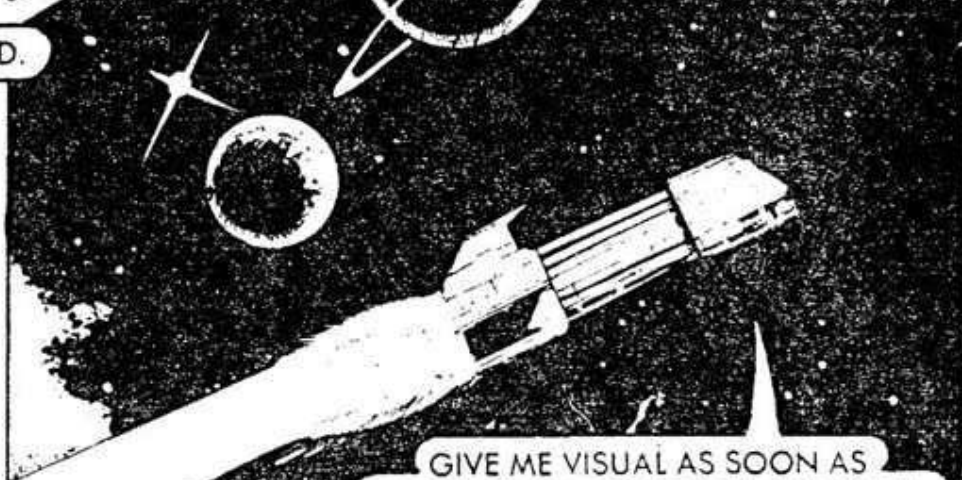
WE HAVE ALL THE FUEL WE NEED.
WE MAY DEPART.



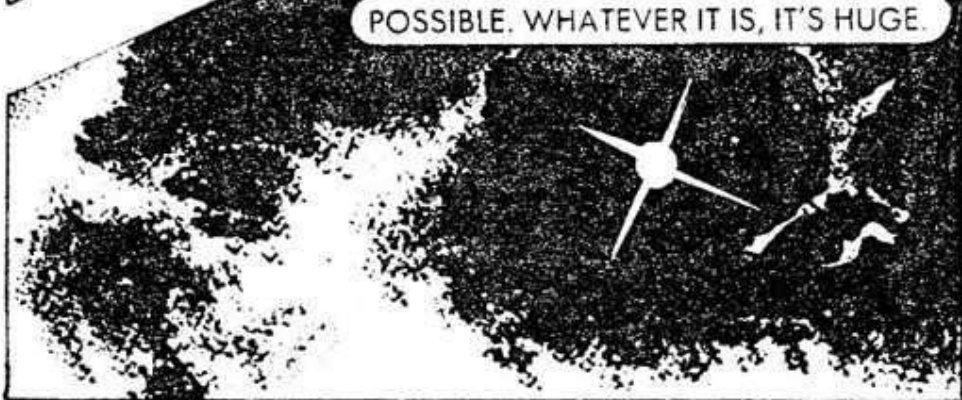
SUDDENLY ANOTHER OBJECT WAS PICKED UP ON SCAN.



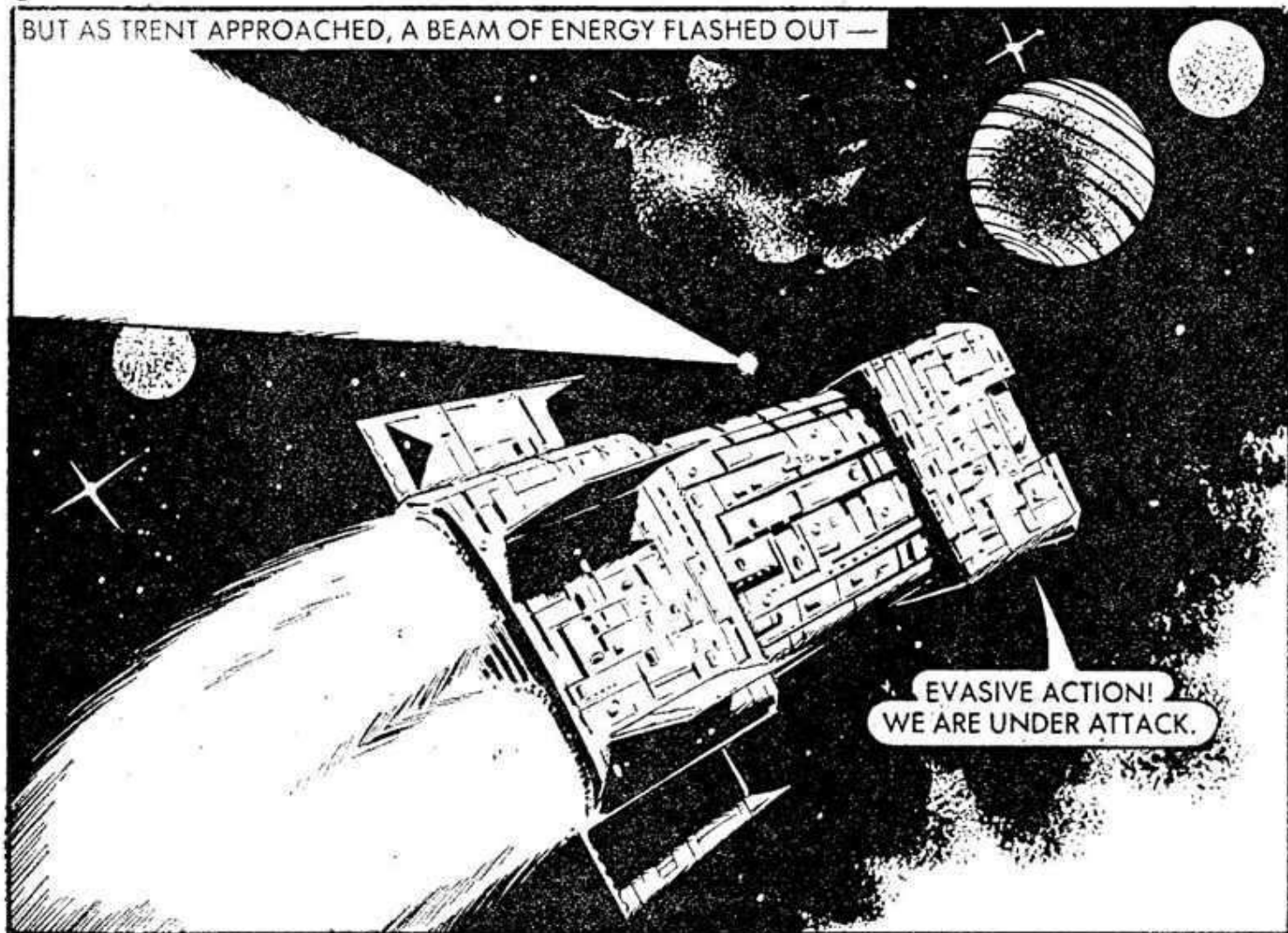
STRANGE READINGS...



GIVE ME VISUAL AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S HUGE.



BUT AS TRENT APPROACHED, A BEAM OF ENERGY FLASHED OUT —

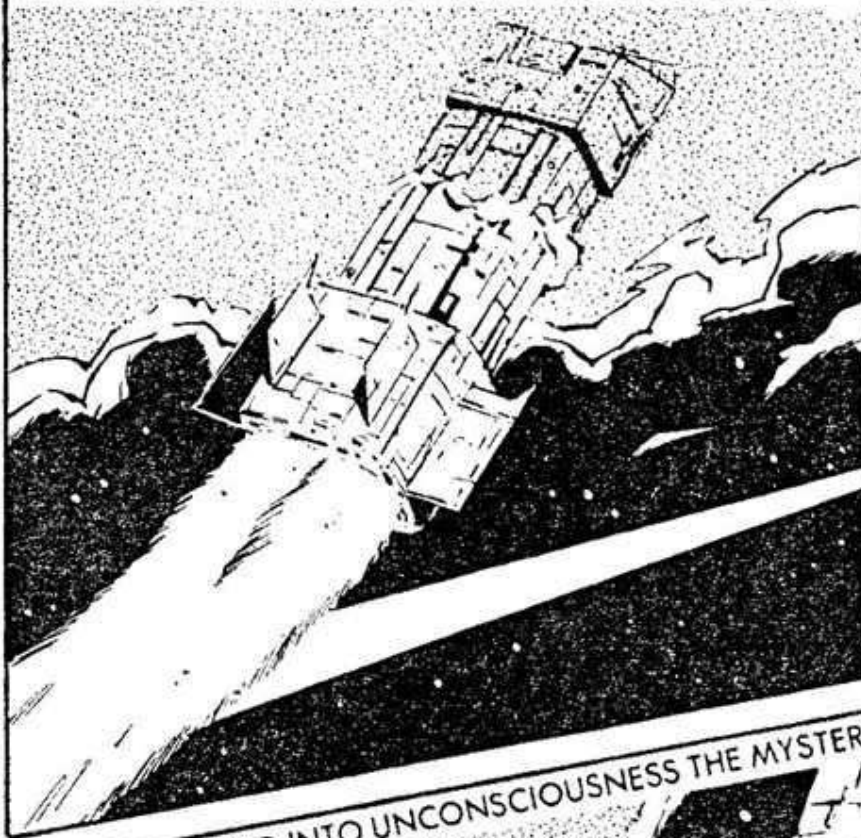


THE STARBLAST RESPONDED TO THE INSTRUCTIONS —

FULL POWER! MAIN DRIVES — LET'S
GET OUT OF HERE.



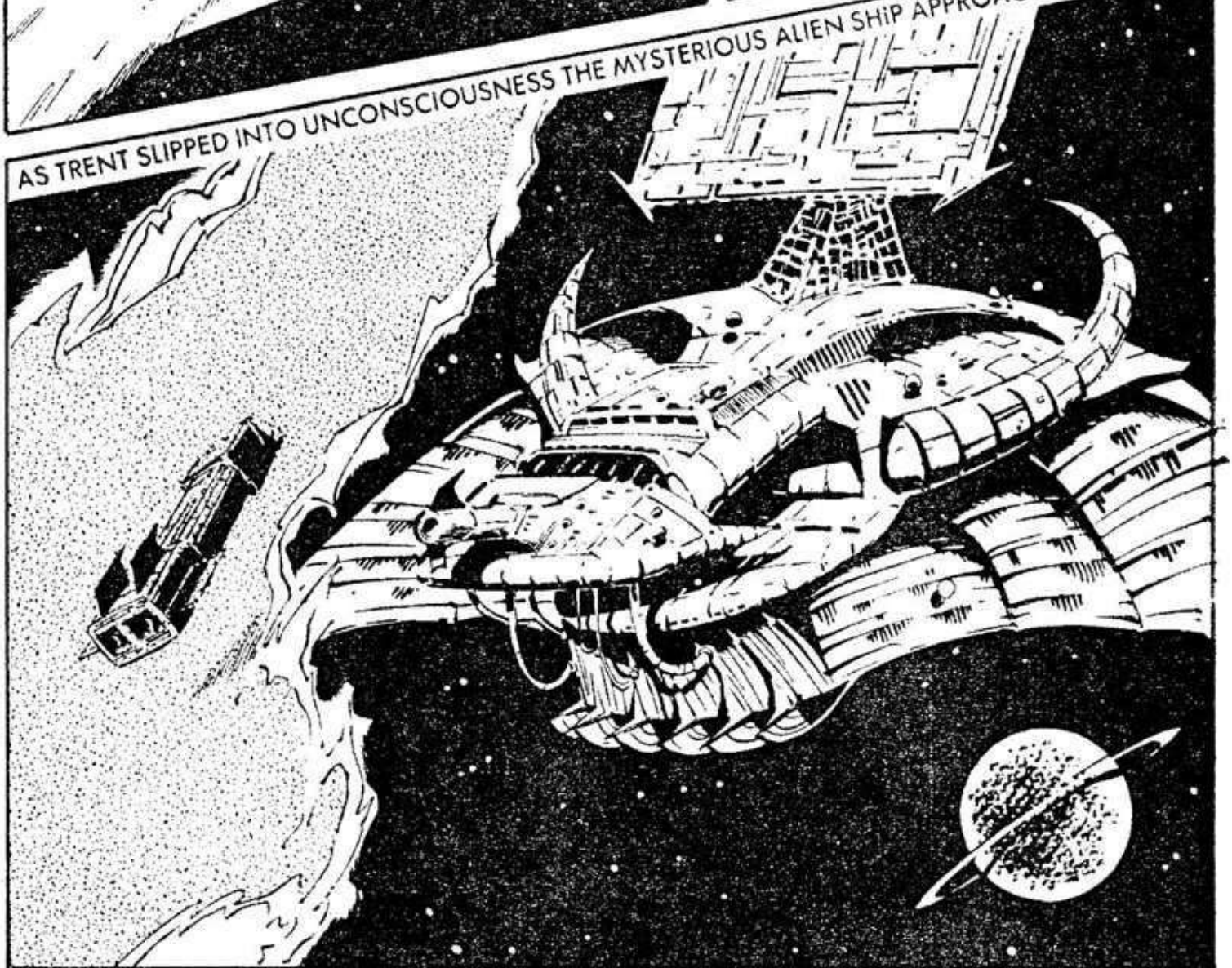
BUT THE CRAFT WAS UNABLE TO AVOID THE STRANGE
NEBULA ICE CLOUD — AN AREA OF INTENSE COLD
THAT HAD BEEN THE FATE OF MANY A SPACEVESSEL.



I CAN'T TURN THE SHIP.
TEMPERATURE IS
FALLING. 180 DEGREES
BELOW ZERO. CAN'T
MOVE...



AS TRENT SLIPPED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS THE MYSTERIOUS ALIEN SHIP APPROACHED —

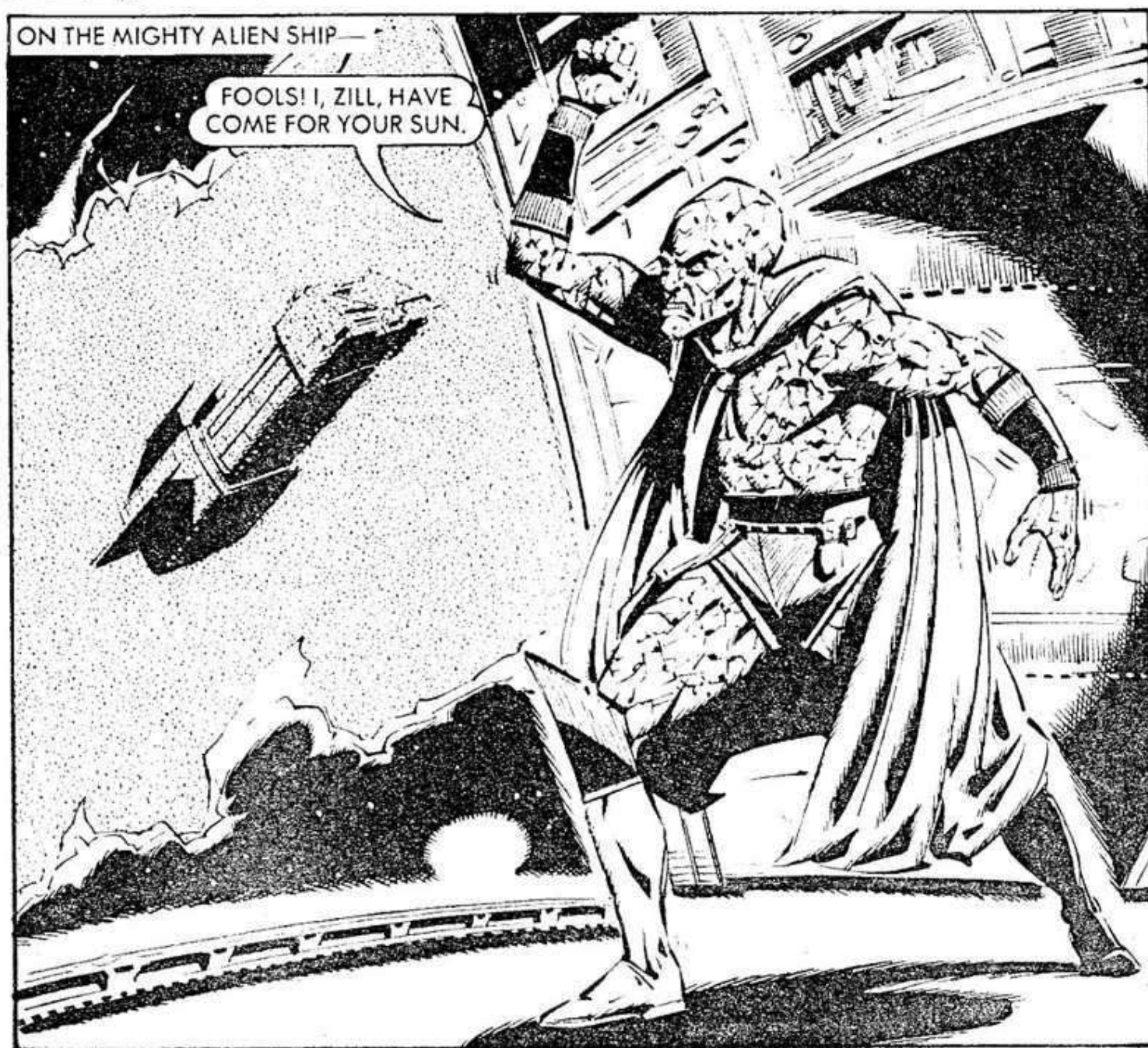


TRENT WATCHED WITH A FROZEN STARE AS THE ALIEN SHIP PASSED THE ICE NEBULA AND HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SUN.



ON THE MIGHTY ALIEN SHIP—

FOOLS! I, ZILL, HAVE
COME FOR YOUR SUN.





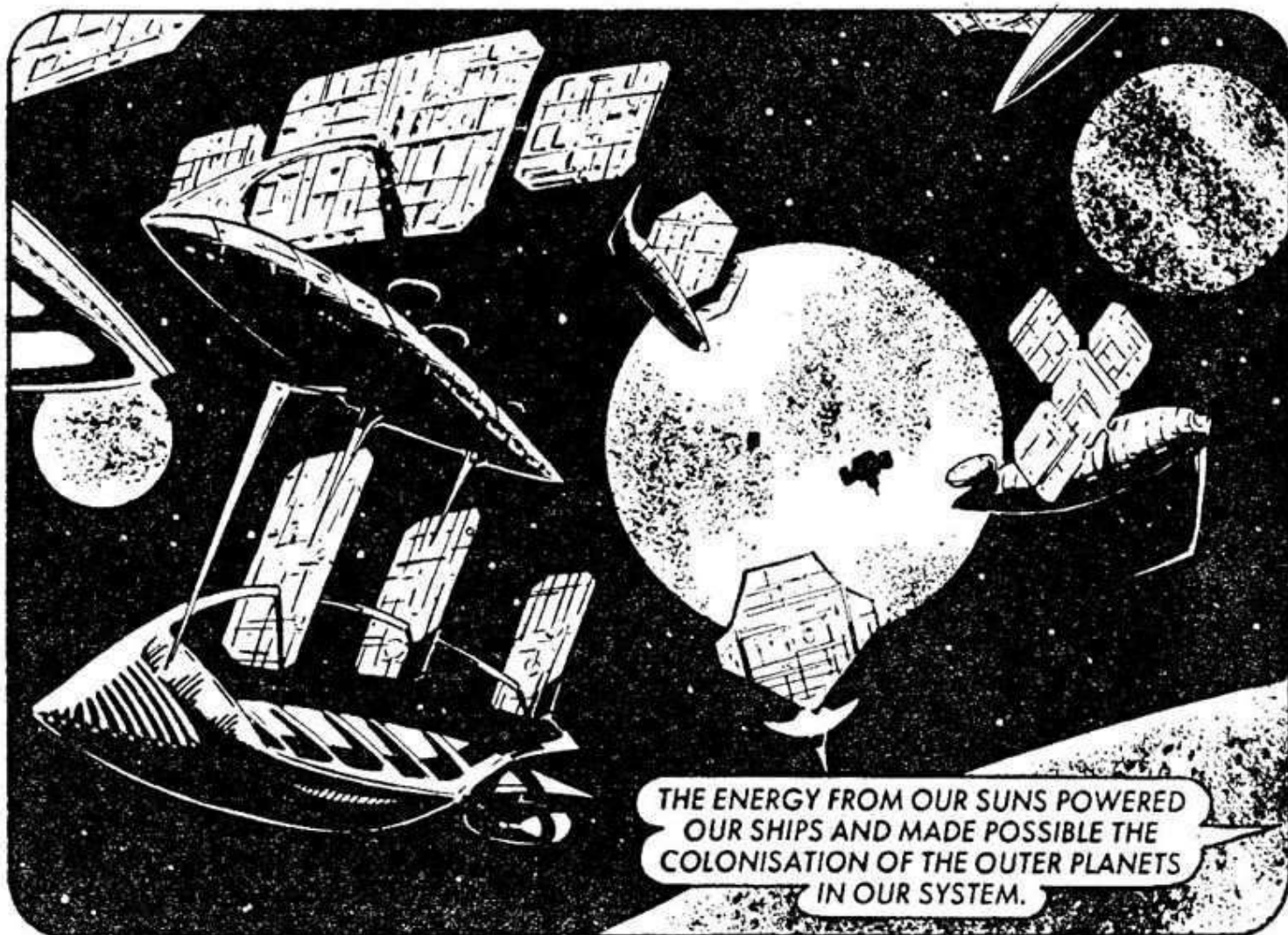
SOON I SHALL DRAIN THE ENERGY FROM
YOUR SUN AND SEND IT BACK TO MY OWN
SYSTEM.


ZILL TARGETTED THE SOLAR GRID WHICH WAS TO
TRANSFORM THE MATTER IN THE SUN INTO STREAMS OF
PURE ENERGY.

I WILL BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE
SUN TO ACTIVATE THE GRID IN A
FEW HOURS, AND DRAW OFF ALL THE
ENERGY WE NEED FOR THE BETA
SYSTEM. IT SHALL SOON BE LIKE THE
OLD DAYS. I REMEMBER ...




ONCE THE TWO SUNS OF THE BETA SYSTEM
POURED ENERGY ONTO OUR PLANETS.





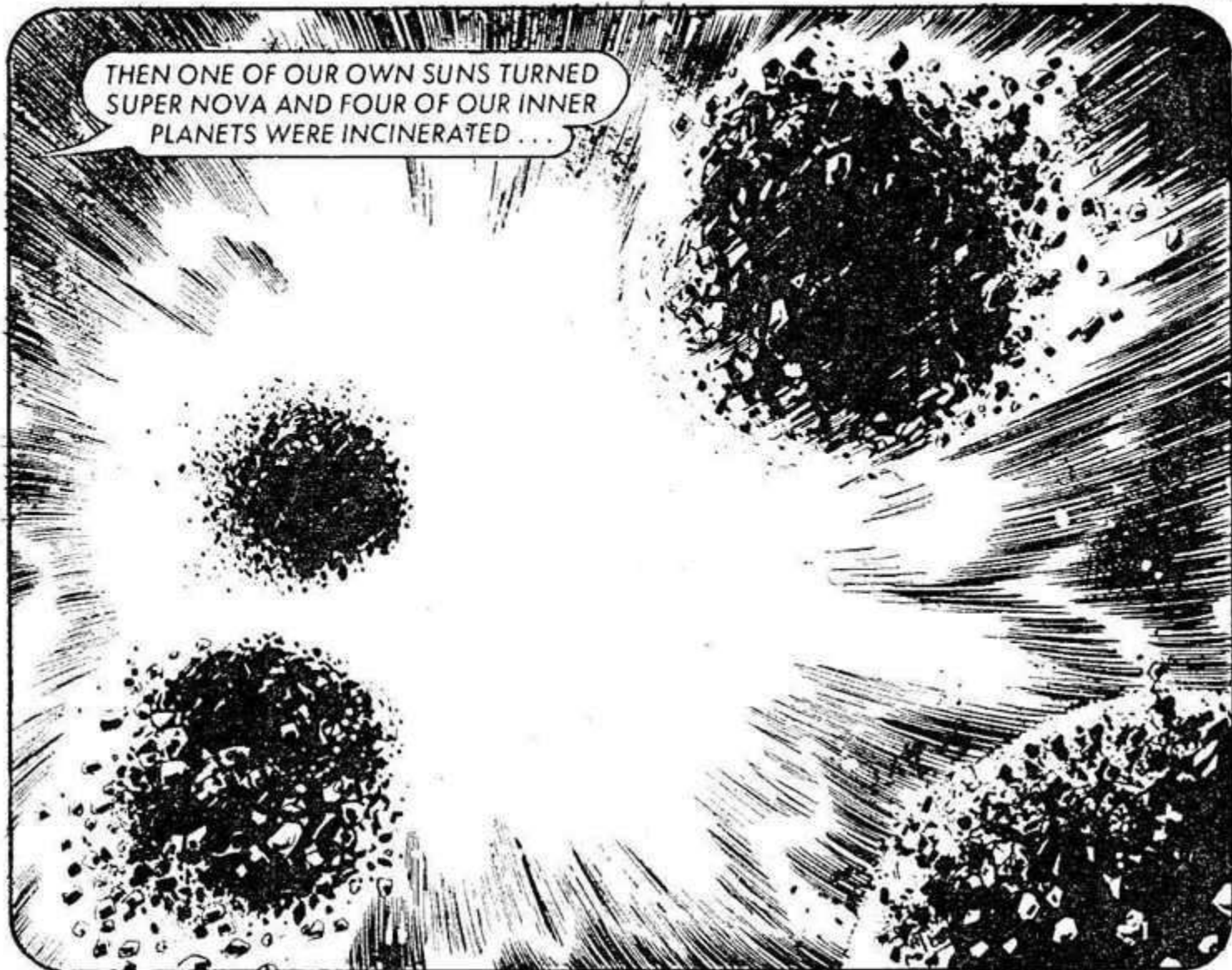
WE WERE ABLE TO GATHER MOONS FROM
THE ORBITS OF DEAD PLANETS AND USE
THEIR ORES IN OUR SPACE FLEET
CONSTRUCTION.



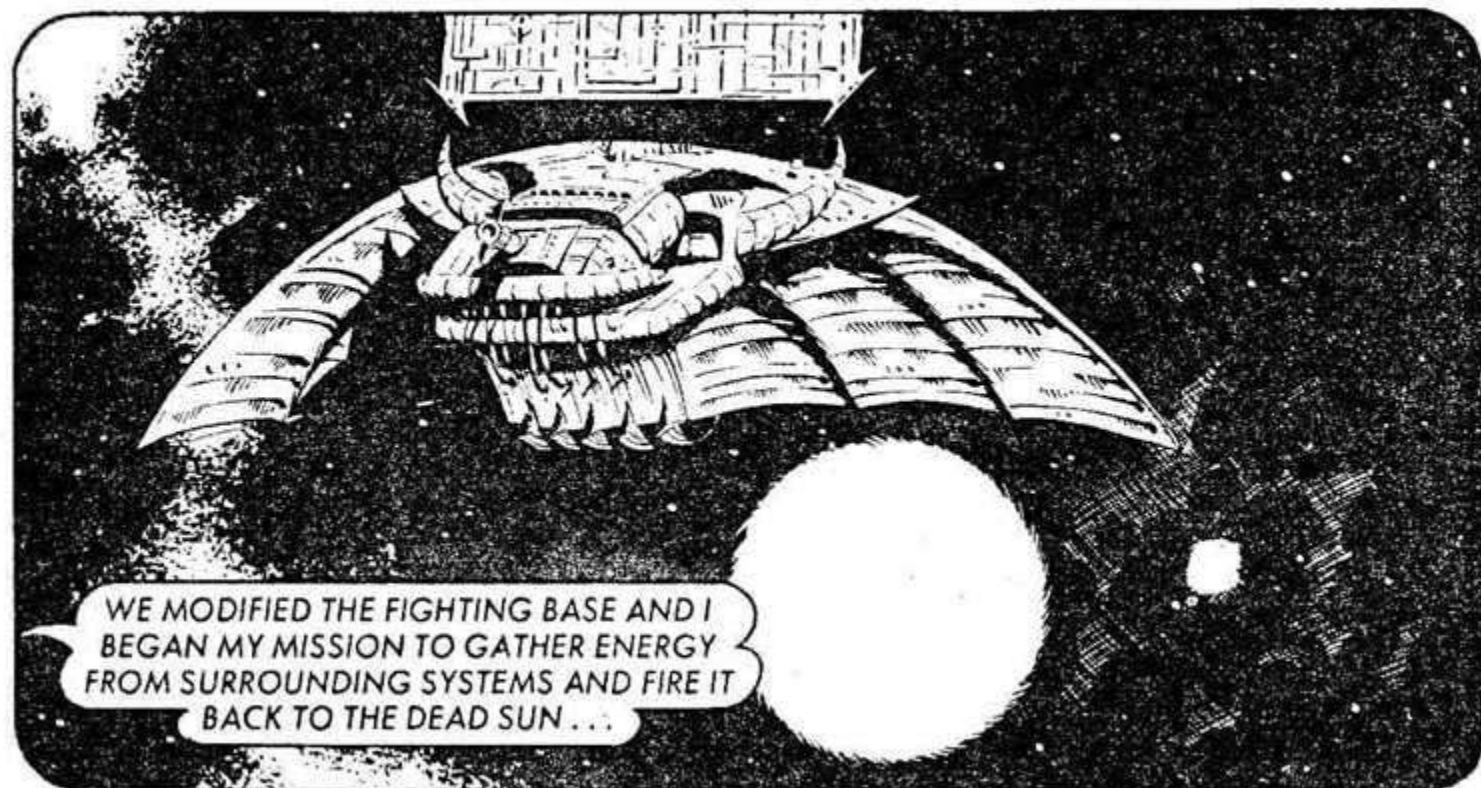
THEN A NEIGHBOURING SYSTEM ATTACKED
ONE OF OUR ORE COLLECTORS THAT WAS
OPERATING IN THEIR AREA.



THEN ONE OF OUR OWN SUNS TURNED
SUPER NOVA AND FOUR OF OUR INNER
PLANETS WERE INCINERATED ...

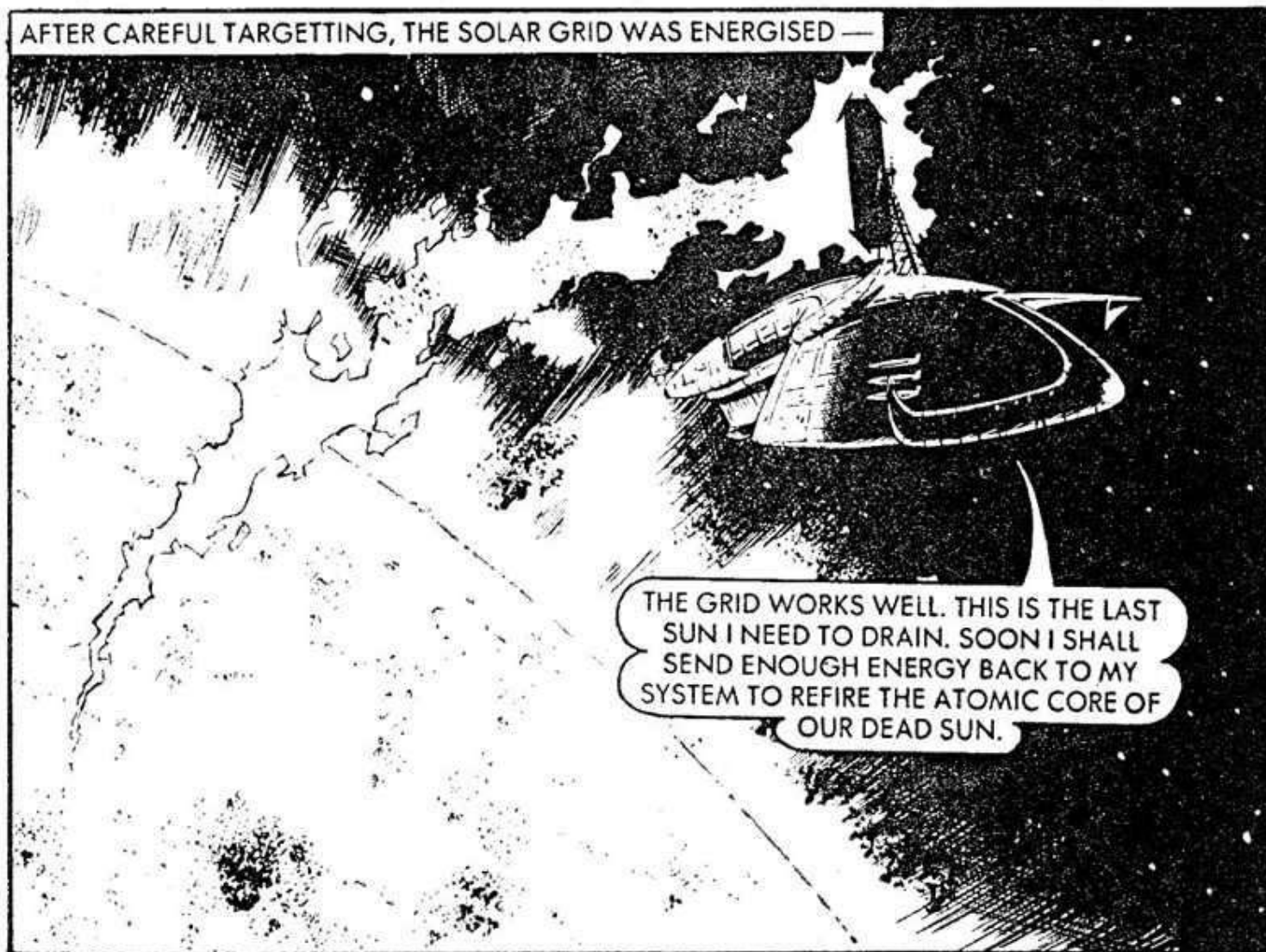


WE MODIFIED THE FIGHTING BASE AND I
BEGAN MY MISSION TO GATHER ENERGY
FROM SURROUNDING SYSTEMS AND FIRE IT
BACK TO THE DEAD SUN ...

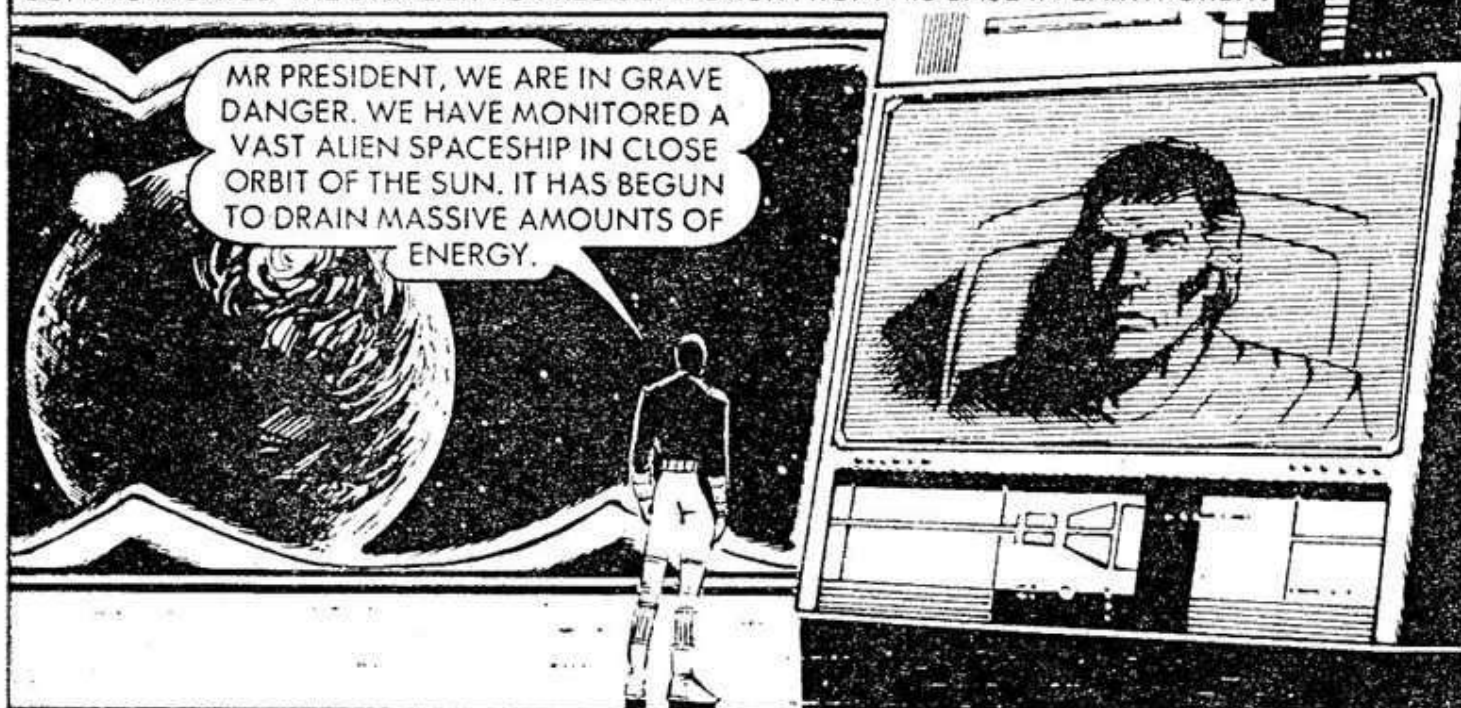




AFTER CAREFUL TARGETTING, THE SOLAR GRID WAS ENERGISED —



WHEN THE DRAINING OF ENERGY BEGAN, A WORRIED SPACE DEFENCE COMMANDER COMMUNICATED THE DANGER TO PRESIDENT DRUK FROM HIS BASE IN EARTH ORBIT.

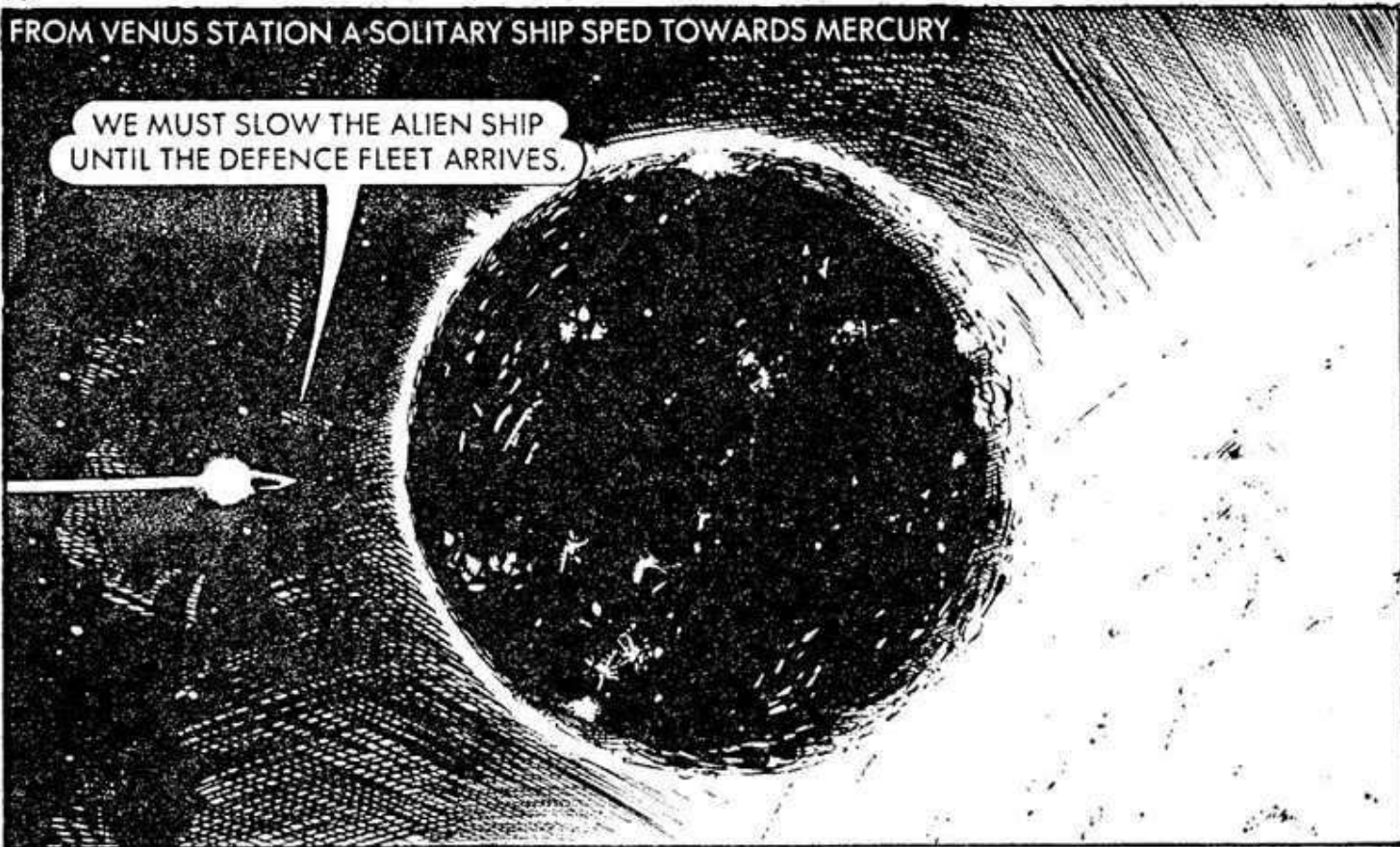


THE SPACE DEFENCE FLEET WAS ORDERED INTO THE ATTACK.



FROM VENUS STATION A SOLITARY SHIP SPED TOWARDS MERCURY.

WE MUST SLOW THE ALIEN SHIP
UNTIL THE DEFENCE FLEET ARRIVES.



THE TINY SHIP LANDED ON THE PLANET.

WE WILL LAUNCH OUR ATTACK WHEN
THE ALIEN SHIP APPEARS OVER THE HORIZON.



BUT ZILL HAD MONITORED THEIR LANDING—

THAT IS WHAT THEY CALL
DEFENCE IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!

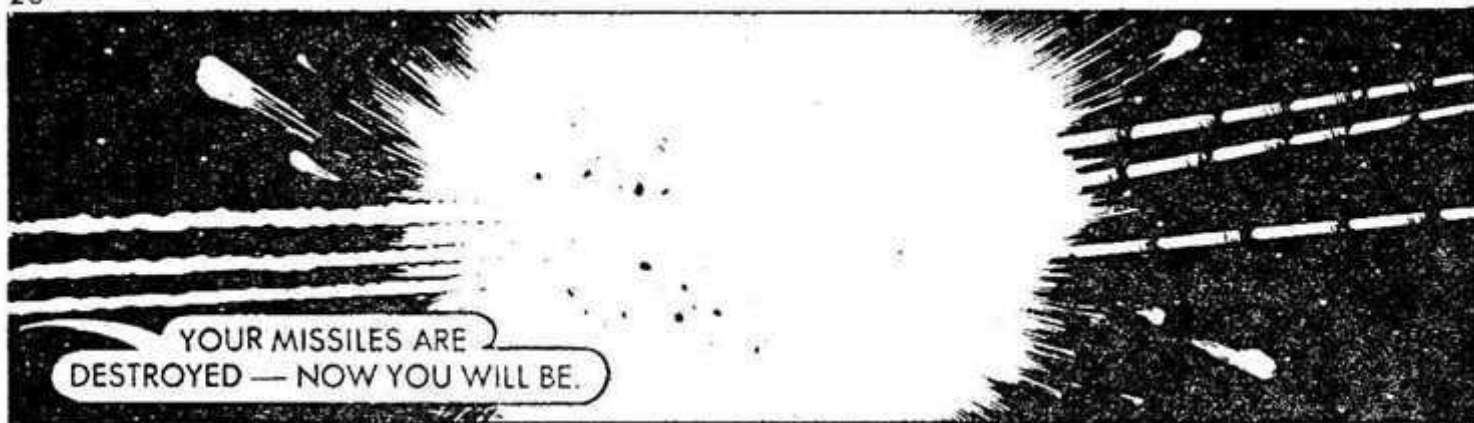
AT A PRESET TIME, EARTH CRAFT OPENED
FIRE—



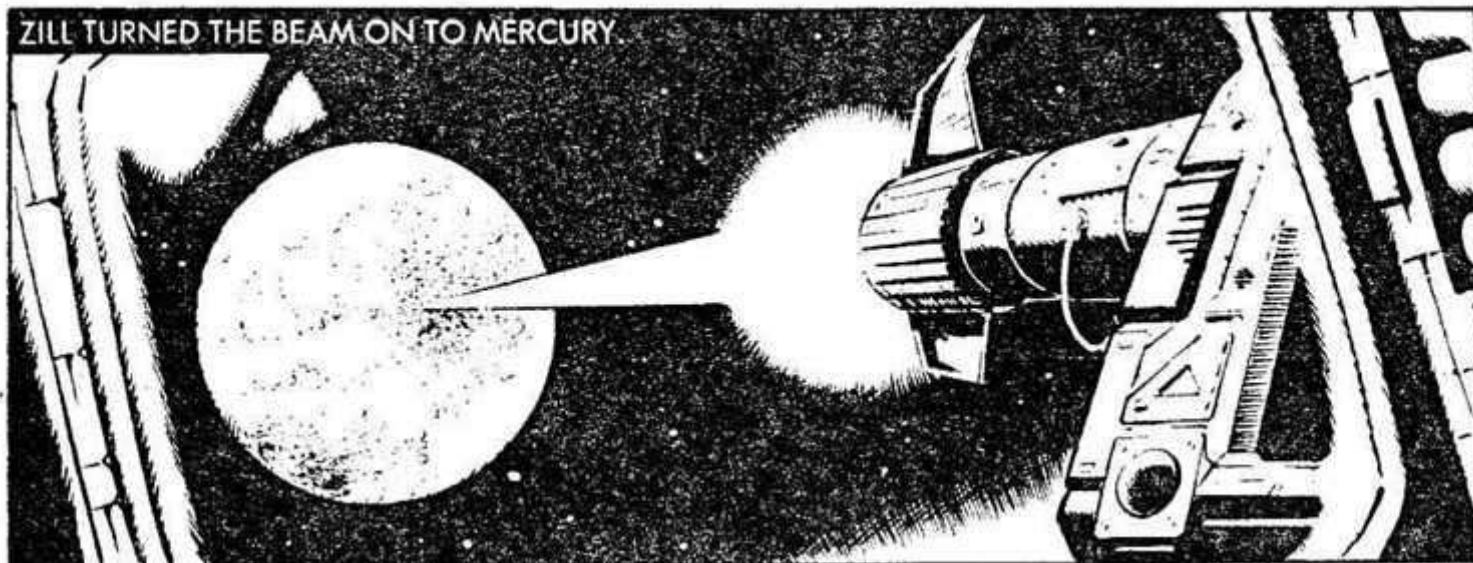
... BUT ZILL WAS PREPARED.

CLICK!

SUCH PUNY EFFORTS ARE
NOT WORTHY OF MY ATTENTION.



ZILL TURNED THE BEAM ON TO MERCURY.



THE PLANET IS BEING CUT APART BY THAT BEAM . . . AAAAAAGHHHH!



ON EARTH, THE EFFECTS OF THE MASSIVE ENERGY DRAIN FROM THE SUN BEGAN TO BE FELT. A VICIOUS WIND, LIKE NOTHING EVER SEEN BEFORE, DROVE ITS WAY FROM THE POLAR REGIONS.



HOLOGRAMATIC IMAGES MET IN EMERGENCY DEBATE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD TOWER IN H.Q., NEW JERUSALEM.

OUR FAILURE TO AGREE IN THE PAST HAS LEFT OUR SPACE DEFENCE WEAK AND WE FACE THE GREATEST MENACE THIS SOLAR SYSTEM HAS EVER SEEN.



SUDDENLY A WAVE OF SNOW AND ICE
HIT THE TOWER—



WITH THE MEETING BROUGHT TO AN ABRUPT END,
PRESIDENT DRUK MADE CONTACT WITH THE
COMMANDER OF EARTH SPACE DEFENCE —



I'M TAKING THE ENTIRE DEFENCE FLEET. THE
ALIEN SHIP HAS ANNIHILATED OUR FORWARD
BASE ON MERCURY. OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO
OVERWHELM IT WITH CONCENTRATED
FIREPOWER.



THE DEFENCE CLOSED IN ON THE TARGET —

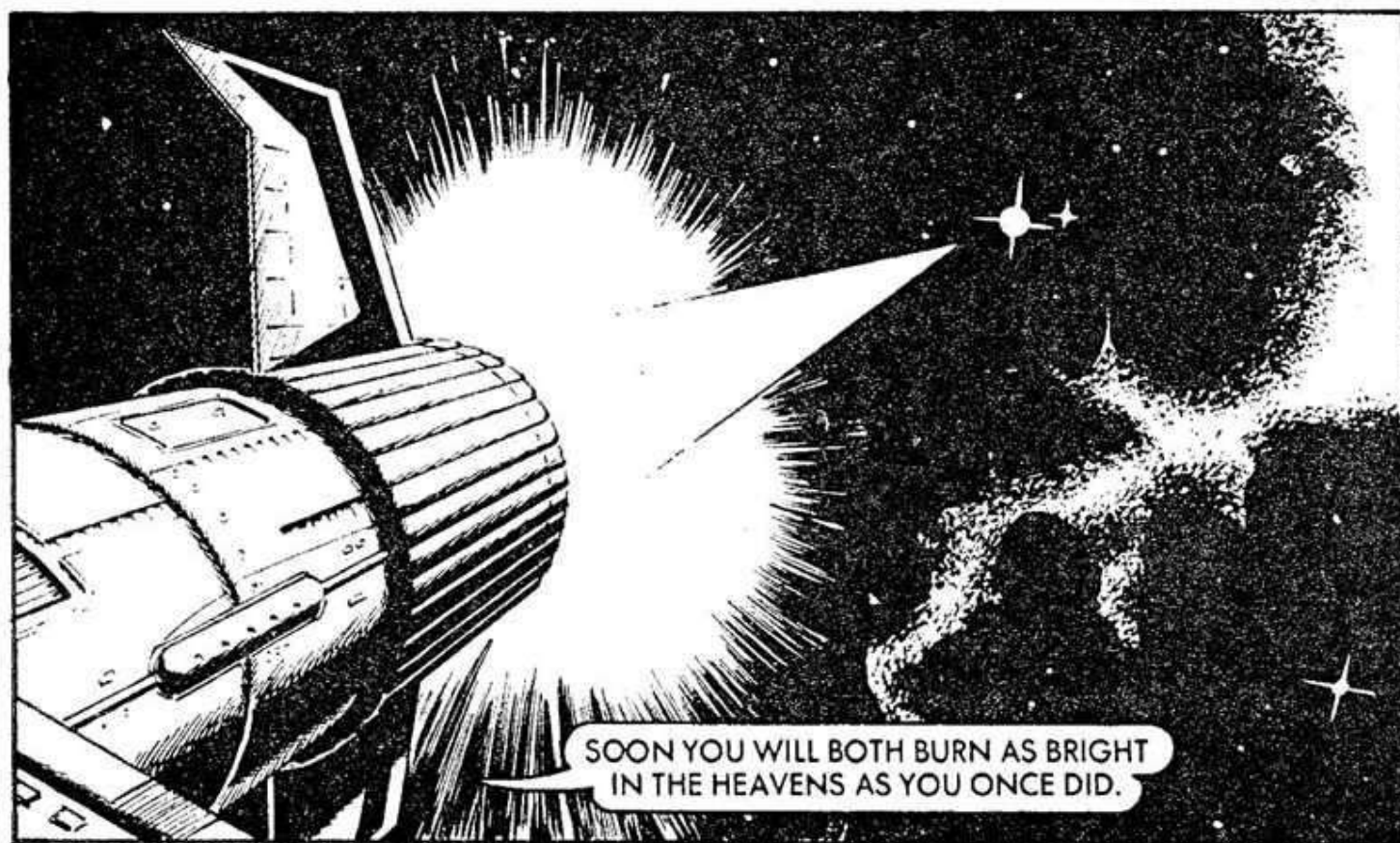
ATTACK THE ALIEN SHIP FROM ALL
DIRECTIONS. OVERWHELM IT WITH
LASER FIREPOWER.

SUDDENLY A BEAM OF PURE ENERGY LANCED OUT —



IN AN INSTANT THE EARTH FLEET WAS NO MORE.

I WILL BURN YOUR PLANET TO A CRISP FOR DARING TO
ATTACK THE MIGHTY ZILL. BUT FIRST I MUST SEND A
PULSE OF YOUR SOLAR MATTER BACK TO MY OWN SUN.



SOON YOU WILL BOTH BURN AS BRIGHT
IN THE HEAVENS AS YOU ONCE DID.

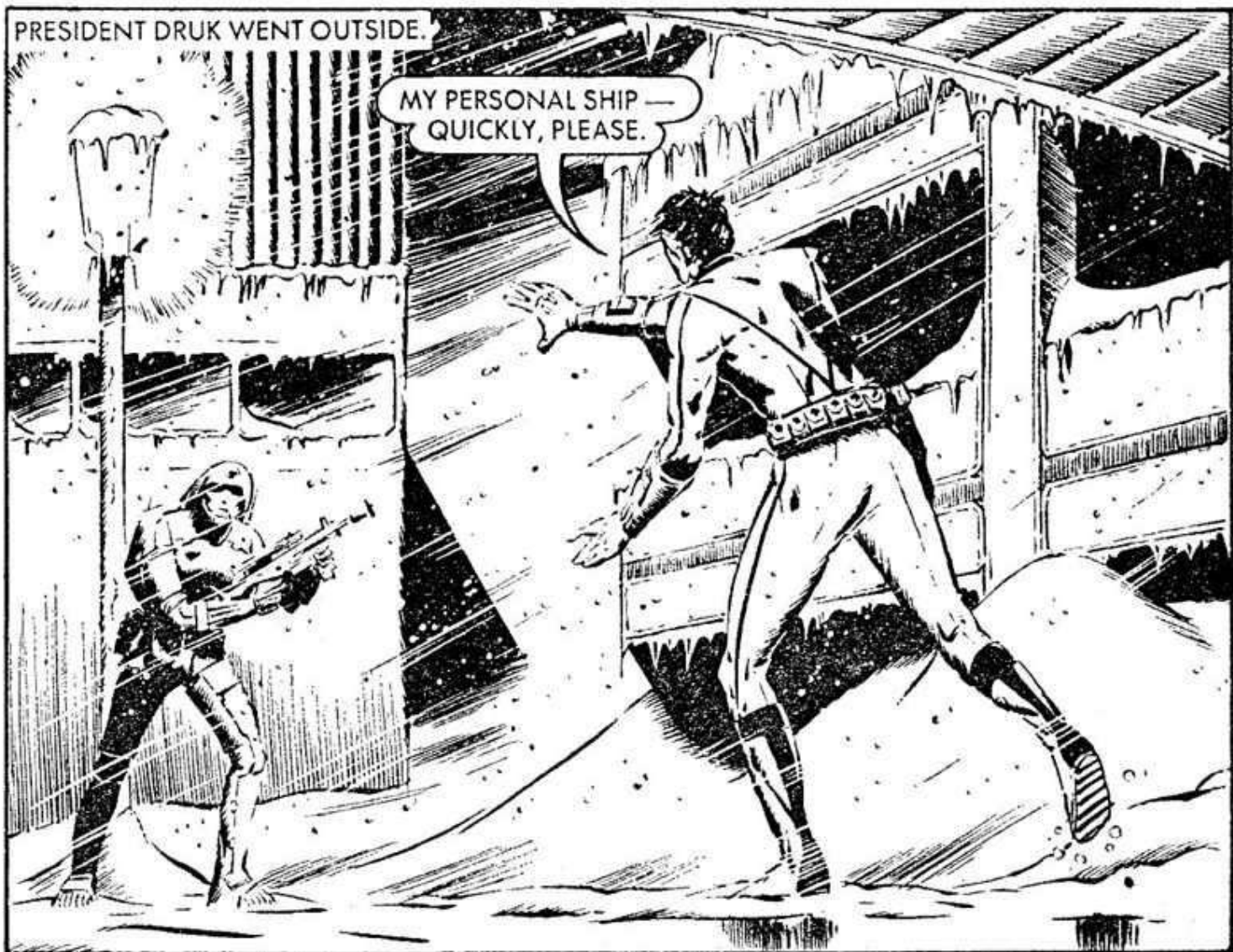
PRESIDENT DRUK HEARD OF THE DEFEAT —

AND THE ENTIRE FLEET
WAS DESTROYED...

I MUST FIND A WAY TO STOP THE
ALIEN. I'M CUT OFF FROM THE
OTHER GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.

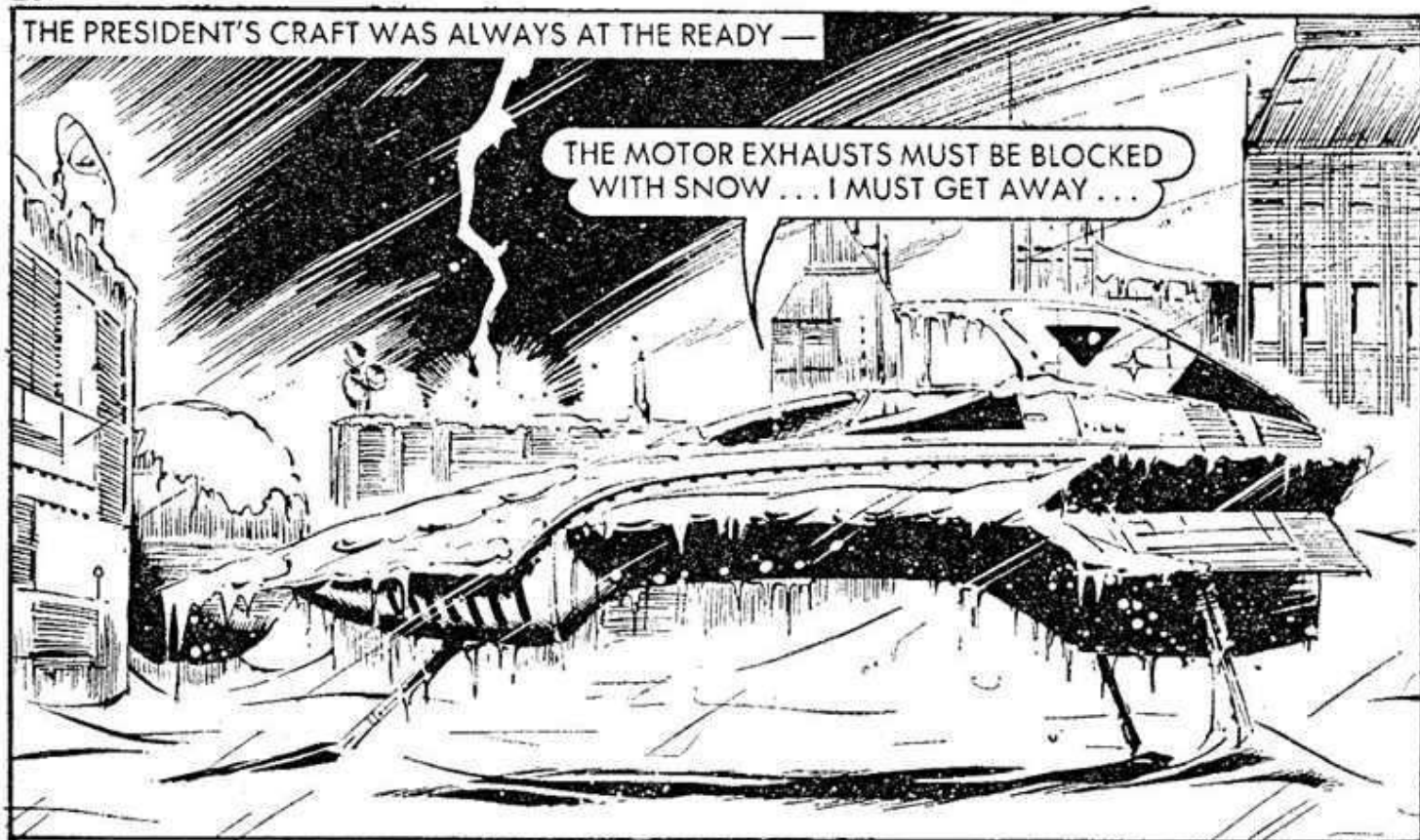
PRESIDENT DRUK WENT OUTSIDE.

MY PERSONAL SHIP —
QUICKLY, PLEASE.



THE PRESIDENT'S CRAFT WAS ALWAYS AT THE READY —

THE MOTOR EXHAUSTS MUST BE BLOCKED
WITH SNOW ... I MUST GET AWAY ...



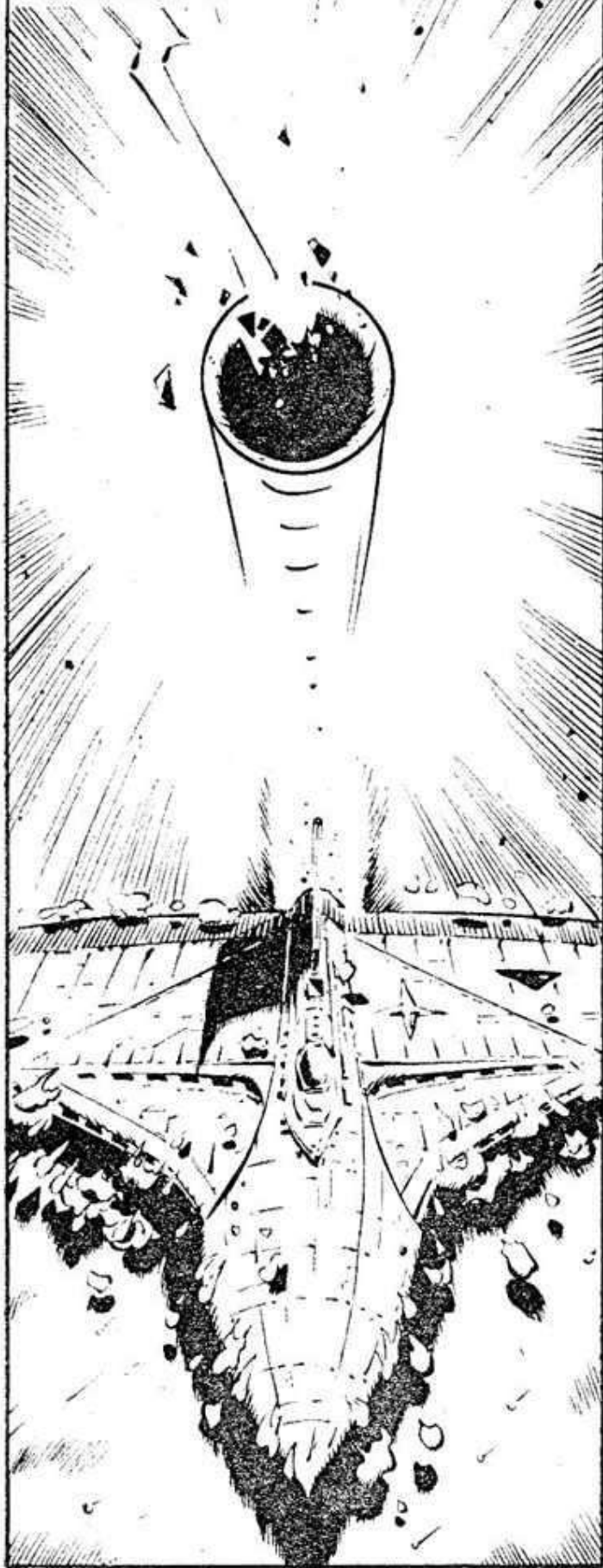
ONCE INSIDE —

I CAN'T ACTIVATE THE SHIELDS —
AND THAT LIGHTNING WILL FRY
ME!

EMERGENCY HANDLE



DRUK PULLED THE EMERGENCY HANDLE WHICH RELEASED THE LIFERAFT. THE LIGHTNING STRUCK IT, SHATTERING THE OUTER CASING.



USING WHAT LITTLE TIME HE HAD GAINED, DRUK BLASTED OFF.



THE TINY SHIP WAS FREE OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.

DIRECT COURSE TO THE SUN. THE STARBLAST IS OUT HERE SOMEWHERE. IF ONLY I COULD CONTACT IT, MAYBE THE ANTI-MATTER WEAPONS SYSTEM WILL STOP THE ALIEN SHIP ...

SUDDENLY HE LOST CONTROL OF THE SHIP —

CAN'T SEE ... AAAAGGHH ... MORE ENERGY BEING DRAINED FROM THE SUN ...

OUT OF CONTROL, DRUK'S SHIP CORKSCREWED TOWARDS ZILL'S CRAFT.



ZILL AIMED AN ULTRA HIGH ENERGY BEAM WEAPON AT THE INTRUDER . . .



DRUK EJECTED FROM THE DOOMED SHIP, MICROSECONDS BEFORE IT DISINTEGRATED.



ZILL SENSED VICTORY —



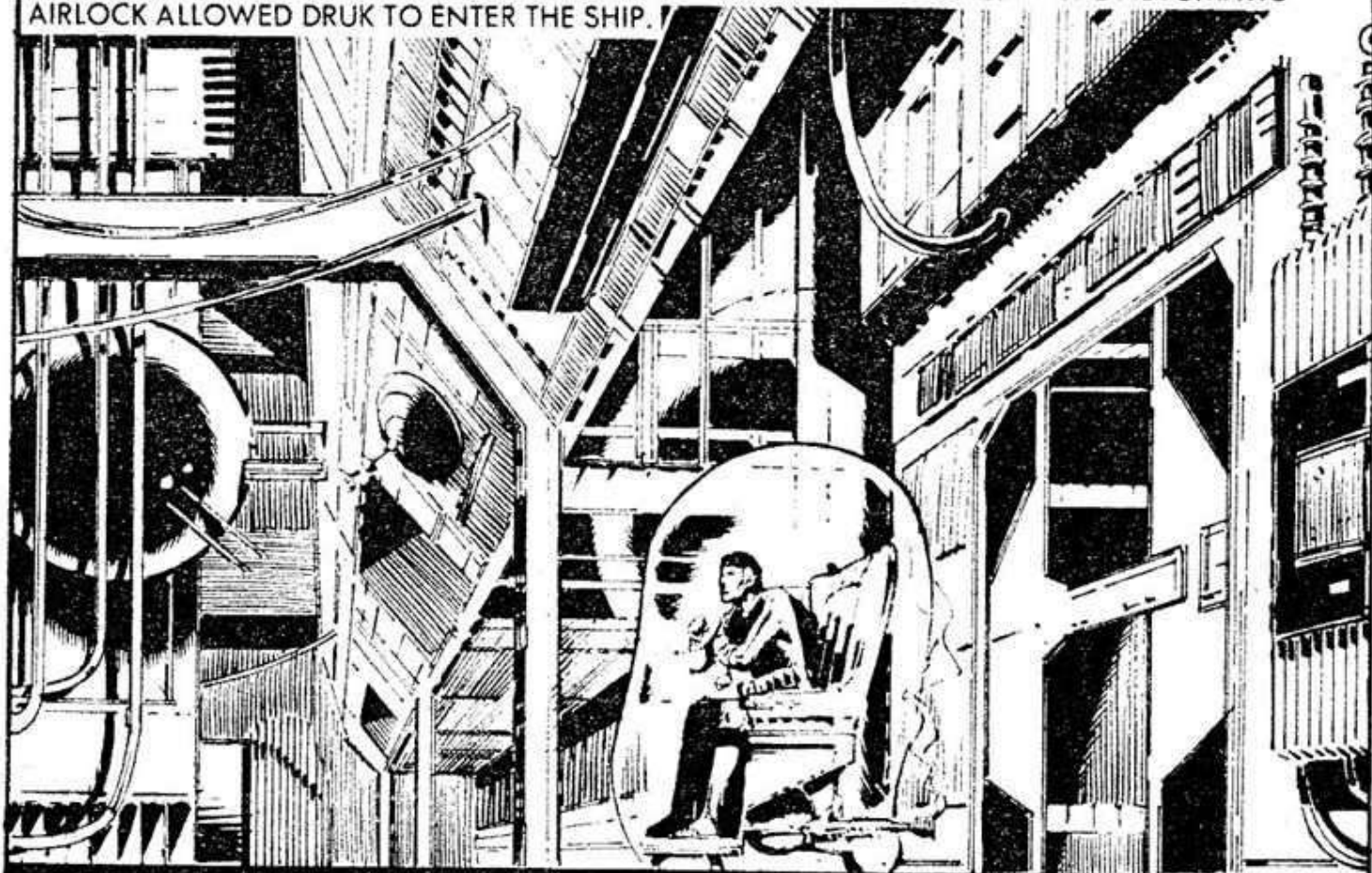
THE WEAK OPPOSITION
TIRES ME.

BUT DRUK WASN'T FINISHED —

IF I HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO REACH
THE AIRLOCK I MAY BE ABLE TO BOARD
THE SHIP.



UNIMPRESSED BY HIS OPPOSITION, ZILL HAD FAILED TO RIG FOR BATTLE — THE AUTOMATIC AIRLOCK ALLOWED DRUK TO ENTER THE SHIP.



THE HUMAN DARES TO BOARD MY SHIP . . . I WILL ACTIVATE A BATTLE DRONE . . . TO WELCOME THE VISITOR . . . WITH DEATH.



SENSING DANGER, DRUK RAN FOR COVER.



THE BATTLE DRONE SOUGHT ITS TARGET.



THERE IS NO ESCAPE.



THE BATTLE DRONE PICKED UP A COMPUTER ENHANCED PICTURE OF DRUK, AND PREPARED TO ELIMINATE —

BUT DRUK WAS READY —

I HAVE LOCATED YOU . . . THERE IS NO PLACE YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME.

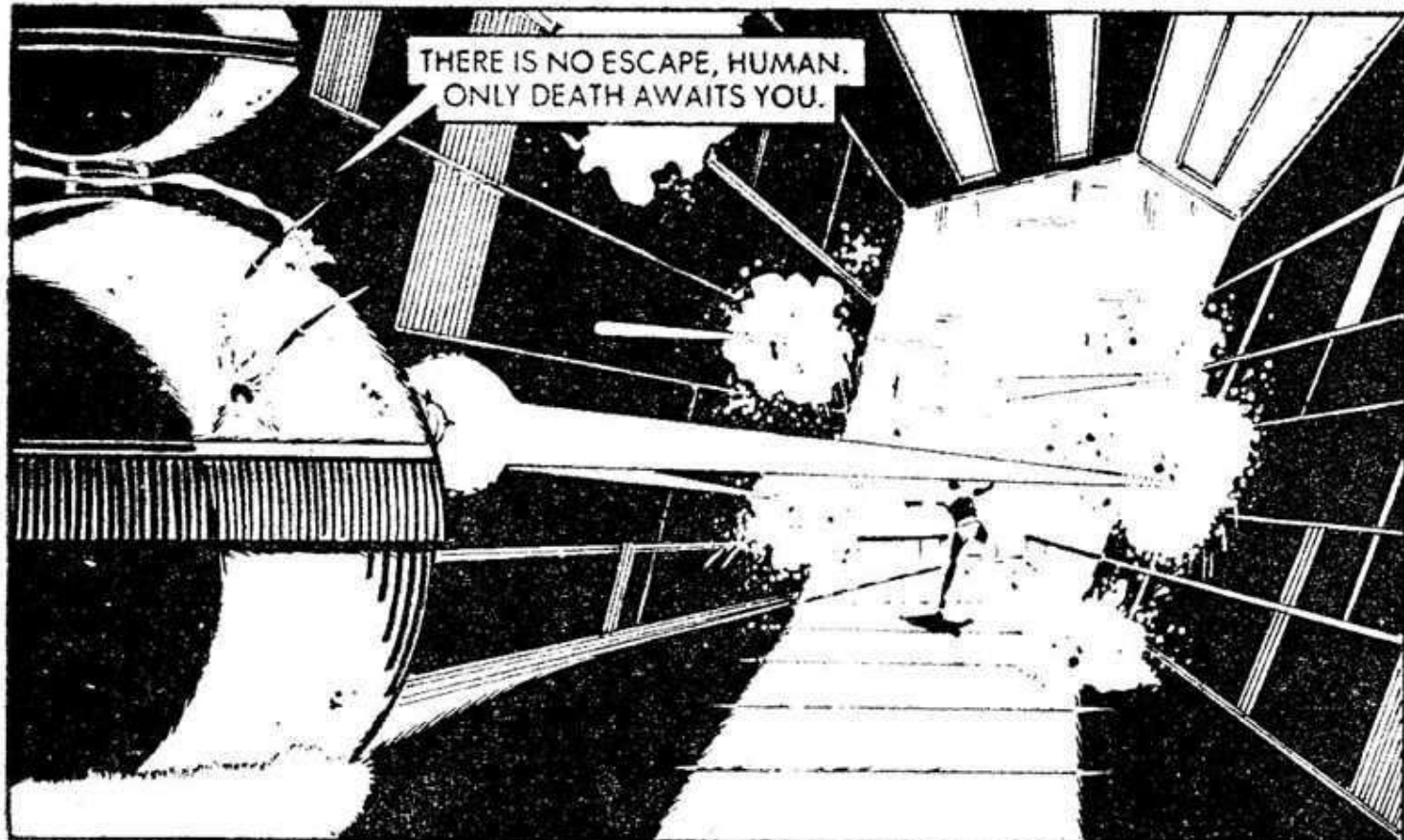
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HIDING —

DRUK SCORED A DIRECT HIT —

I AM ABLE TO REPAIR MY DAMAGED
CIRCUITS — DAMAGE IS MINIMAL.



IN THE CONFUSION DRUK RAN FOR HIS LIFE.



DRUK MANAGED TO REACH AN AIRCRAFT —

SAFE NOW — I THINK.

BUT THE BATTLE-DRONE FOLLOWED

THERE IS NO HIDING
PLACE FOR YOU.



A LASER BLAST CAUSED
THE AIRCAR TO CRASH
OFF A WALL, AND GO
OUT OF CONTROL —

DESPERATELY HE ACTIVATED A MAGNA-GRAB CONTROL —

NOW, IF I CAN REACH THAT
EMERGENCY DOOR BEFORE THE
DRONE SEES ME ...

THAT LASER BLAST WAS TOO
CLOSE ... AM LOSING
HEIGHT ... CRASHING TO THE
FLOOR ...

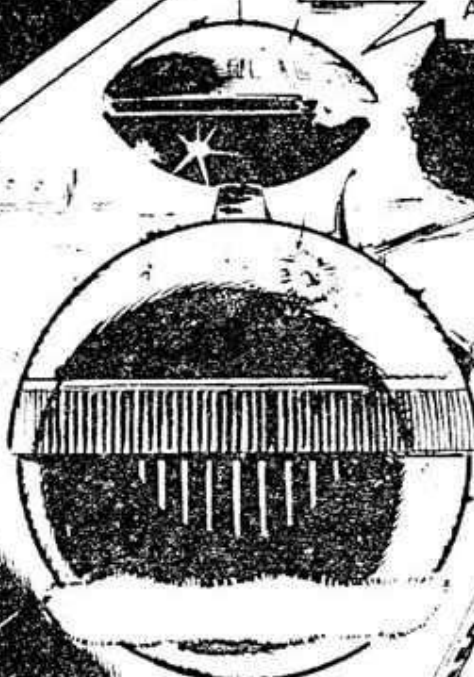


BUT THE DRONE CLOSED IN —

THIS IS THE END

MY SENSORS DETECT NO READINGS.
THE HUMAN IS DEAD. I MUST REPORT
AT ONCE TO ZILL.

THE SMOKE FROM THE LASER BLAST CLEARED.



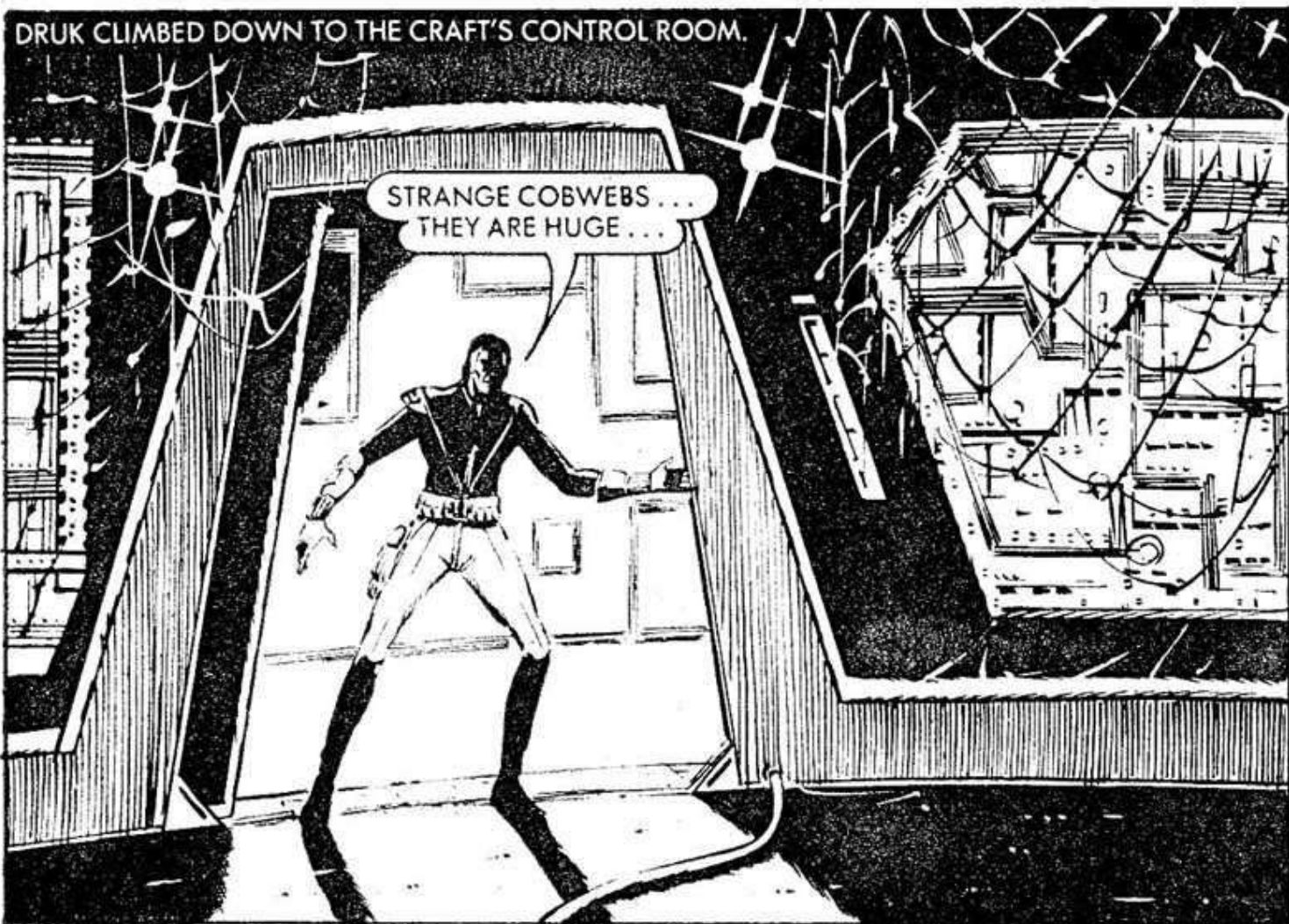
BUT INSIDE THE SHIP'S EMERGENCY HATCH —

THE BLAST OPENED THE HATCH AND SET
OFF THE FIRE SYSTEM — THIS IONISED
FIRE-FOAM SHIELDED ME.



DRUK CLIMBED DOWN TO THE CRAFT'S CONTROL ROOM.

STRANGE COBWEBS ...
THEY ARE HUGE ...



SUDDENLY —

WHAT THIS...? BEING ATTACKED
BY SOME HUGE INSECT...

DEEP IN THE UNUSED CORNERS OF ZILL'S
SHIP, THE GROTESQUE MUTATIONS OF
EXCESSIVE SOLAR AND NUCLEAR ENERGY
LURKED IN WAIT FOR THE UNWARY —

DRUK TRIPPED AS HE EVADED THE MUTANT CREATURE...

THAT CABLE...
MAY BE MY ONLY CHANCE...



DRUK LUNGED AT THE ARACHNID WITH THE HIGH VOLTAGE CABLE —

JUST A LITTLE
CLOSER... NOW...



MAYBE I CAN GET THIS SHIP
WORKING, AND DO SOME DAMAGE
TO THAT BATTLE-DRONE.



DRUK ACTIVATED THE VIDSCREEN —

SO HUMAN, YOU ARE NOT DEAD. YOUR
SUN IS ALMOST BEYOND HELP. AFTER ONE
MORE POWER SURGE FROM THE PULSE
CANNON MY MISSION WILL BE COMPLETE.
YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE.



ZILL SENT THE BATTLE DRONE INTO THE HANGAR —

ONE OF THESE BUTTONS
MUST BE AN ACTIVATOR ...



THESE CONTROLS DON'T SEEM TO
MAKE SENSE... TRY TO STEER... AAAAGGGHHH...

THE SHIP'S MOTORS SUDDENLY BURST INTO LIFE...
... WITH DEVASTATING RESULTS.



DRUK MANAGED TO TURN THE SHIP ...

MY TIMING MUST BE PERFECT. ONLY
ONCE CHANCE.

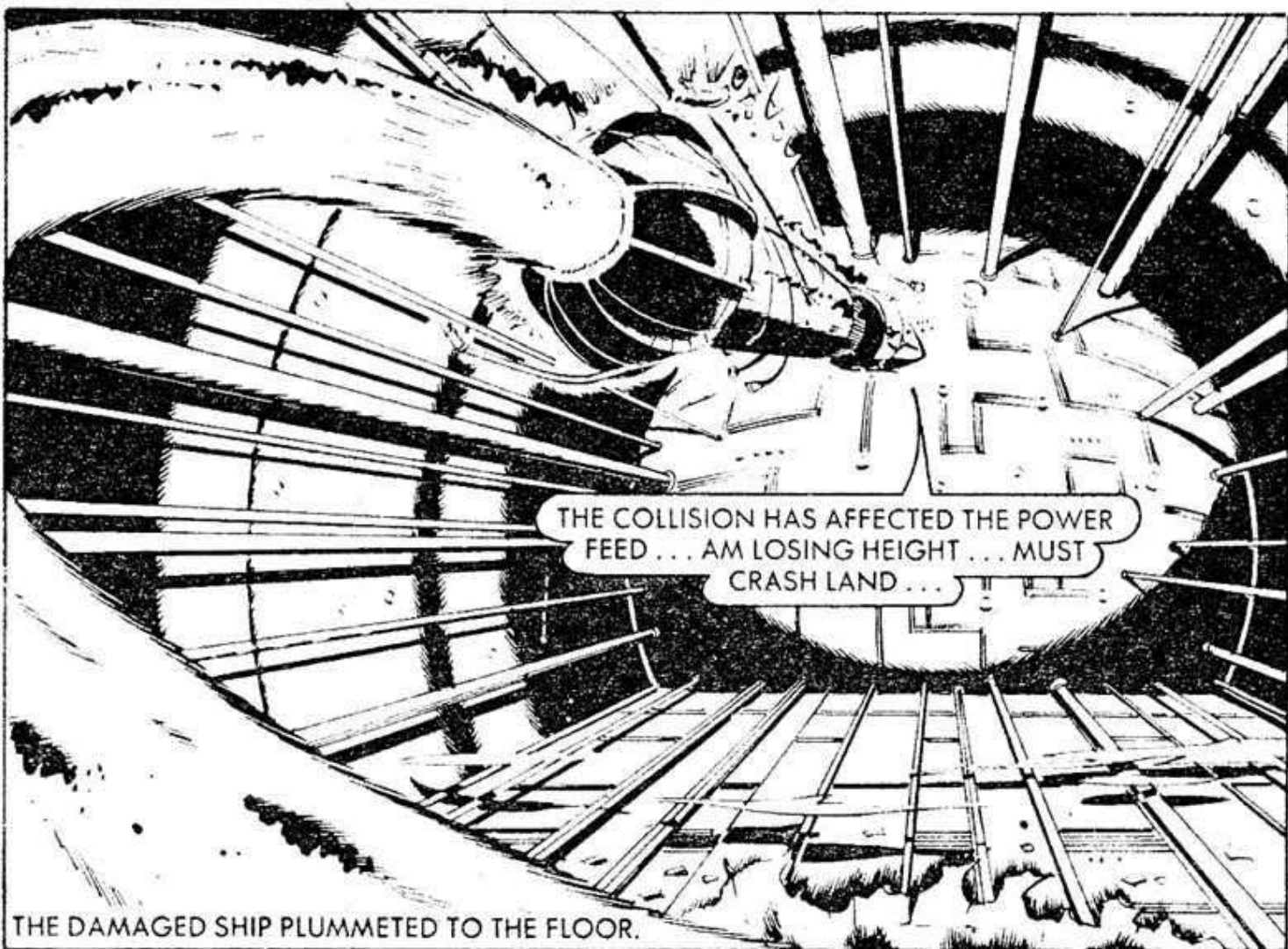
DRUK RACED TOWARDS HIS TARGET.

MAXIMUM POWER ... NOW ...





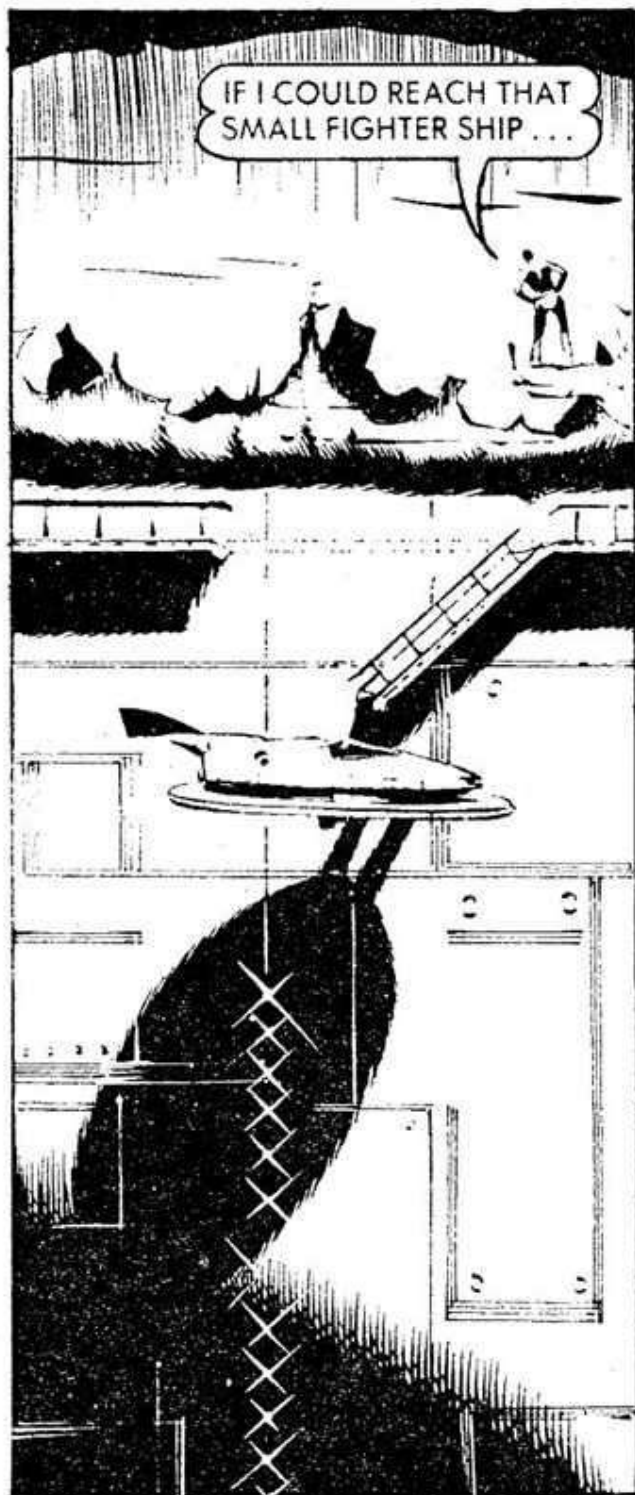
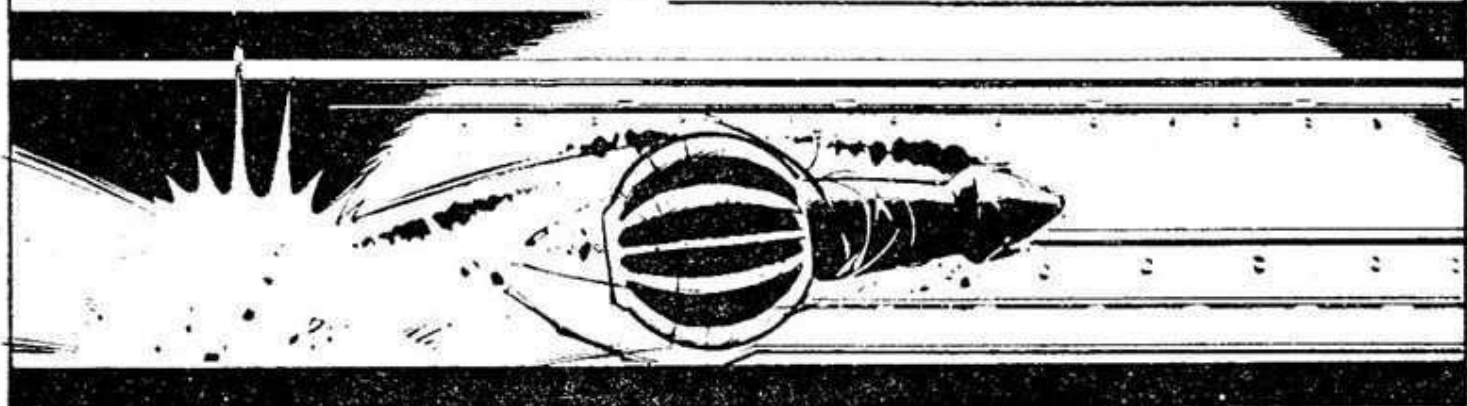
DEAD CENTRE . . . GOODBYE, DROID!

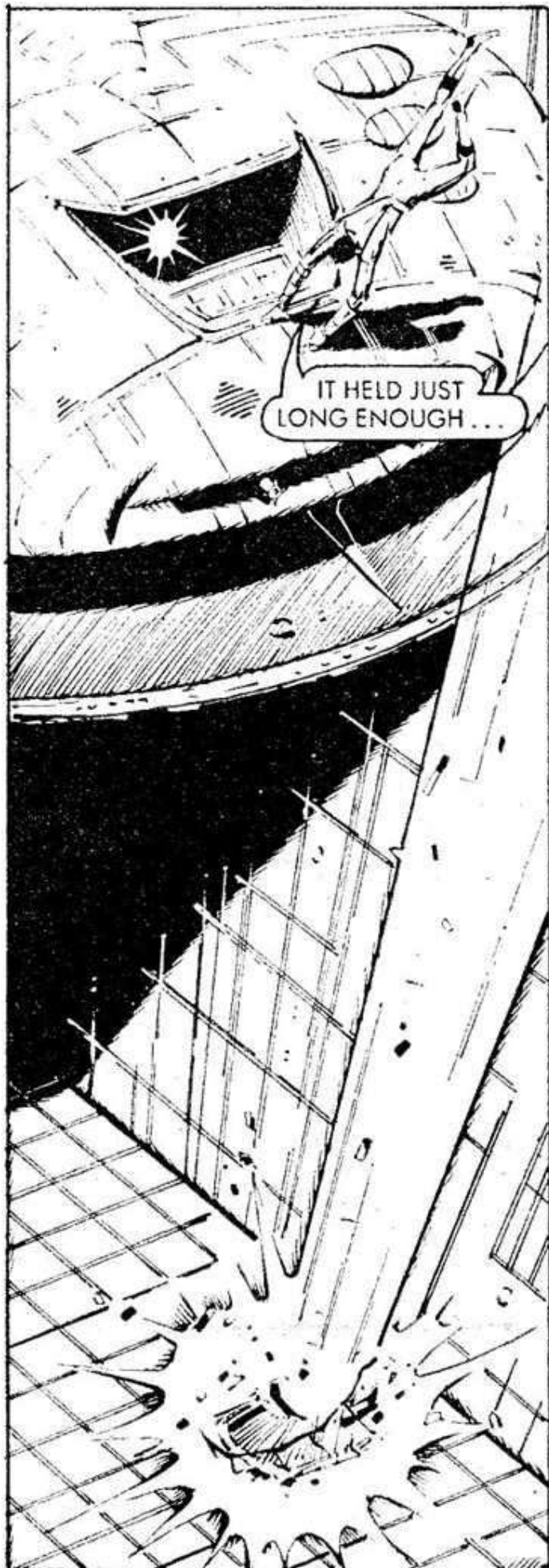
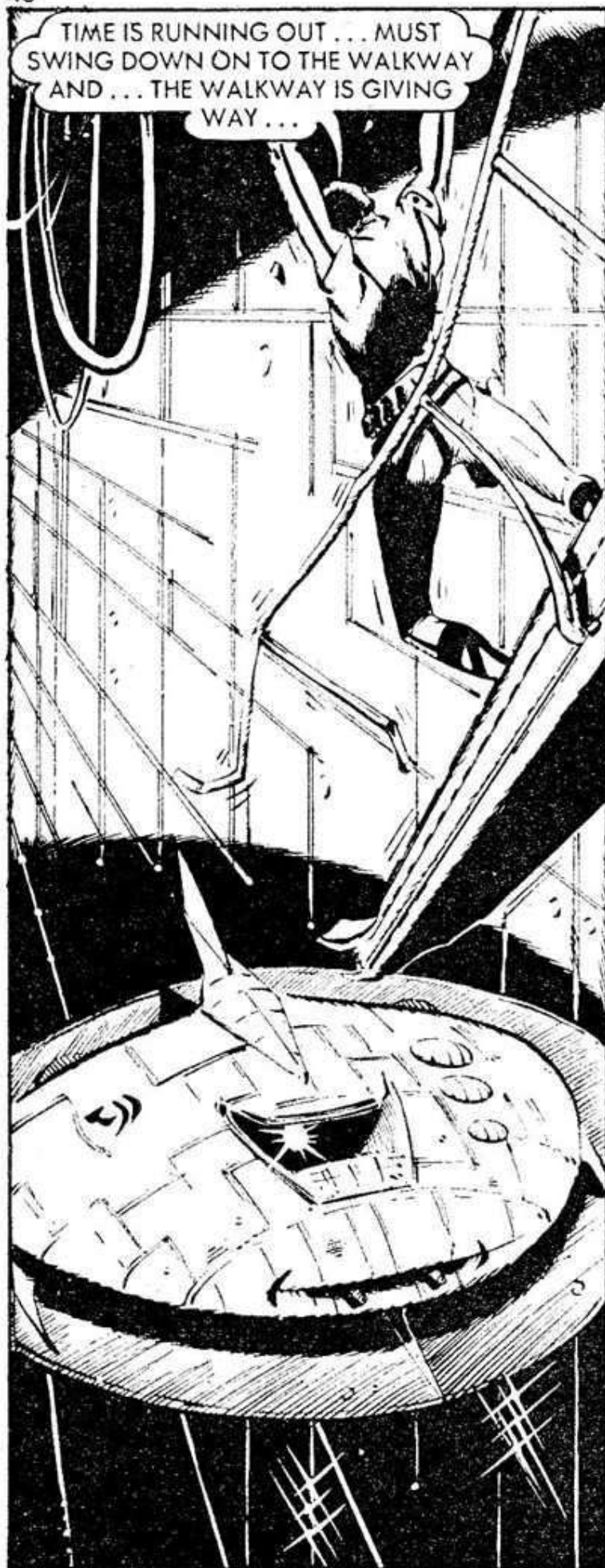


THE COLLISION HAS AFFECTED THE POWER
FEED . . . AM LOSING HEIGHT . . . MUST
CRASH LAND . . .

THE DAMAGED SHIP PLUMMETED TO THE FLOOR.

DRUK SUCCEEDED IN LANDING THE SHIP





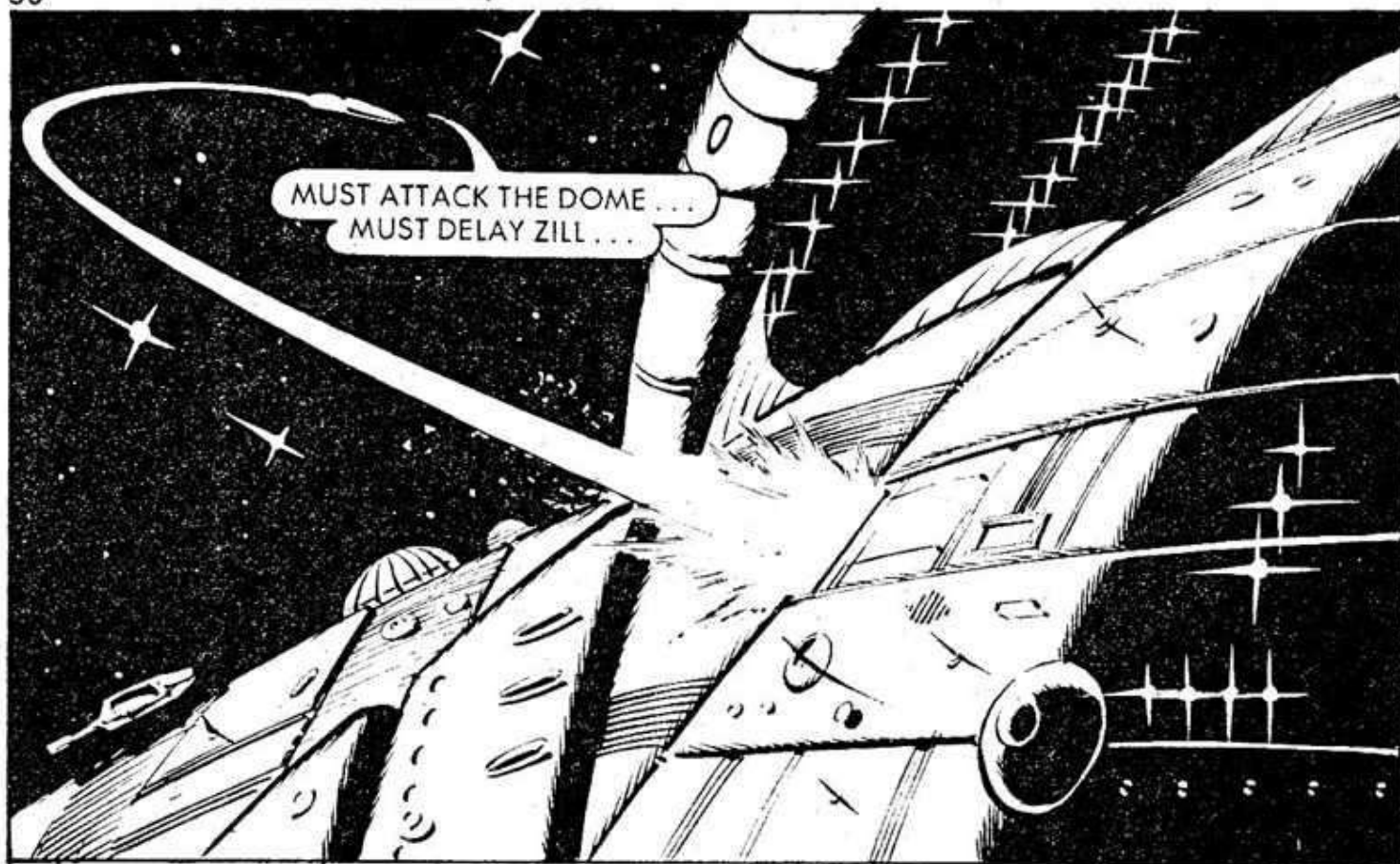
DRUK PREPARED TO DO BATTLE WITH ZILL.

THANK JUPITER! THE CONTROLS
LOOK SIMPLE ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND...

IN THE FIGHTER, DRUK HEADED FOR AN AIRLOCK ON THE UPPER LEVEL.

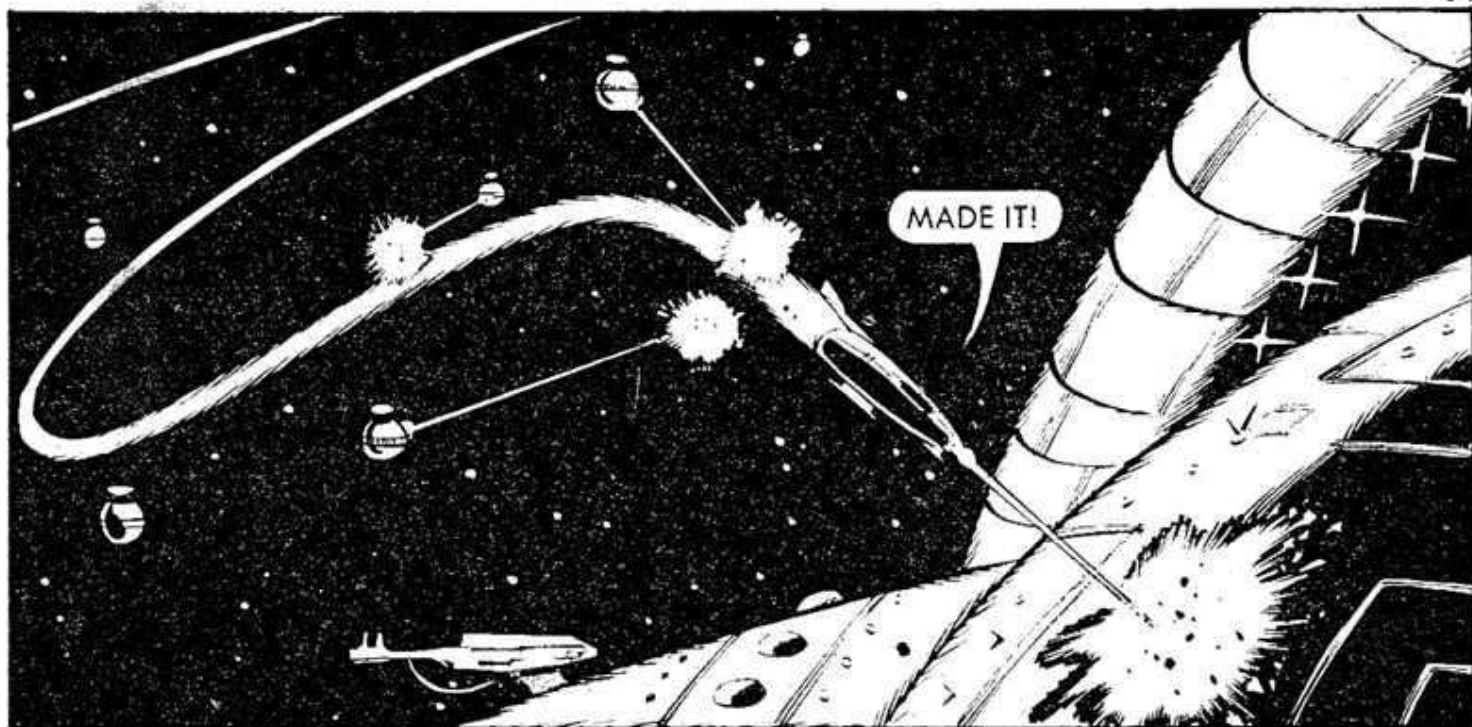
STAY AWAY HUMAN. YOU MUST NOT
ATTEMPT TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF
ZILL. THERE IS NO HOPE FOR YOU OR YOUR
RACE... NO HOPE...





ZILL SENT A FLIGHT OF BATTLE-DRONES TO DEFEND THE MIGHTY CRAFT ...



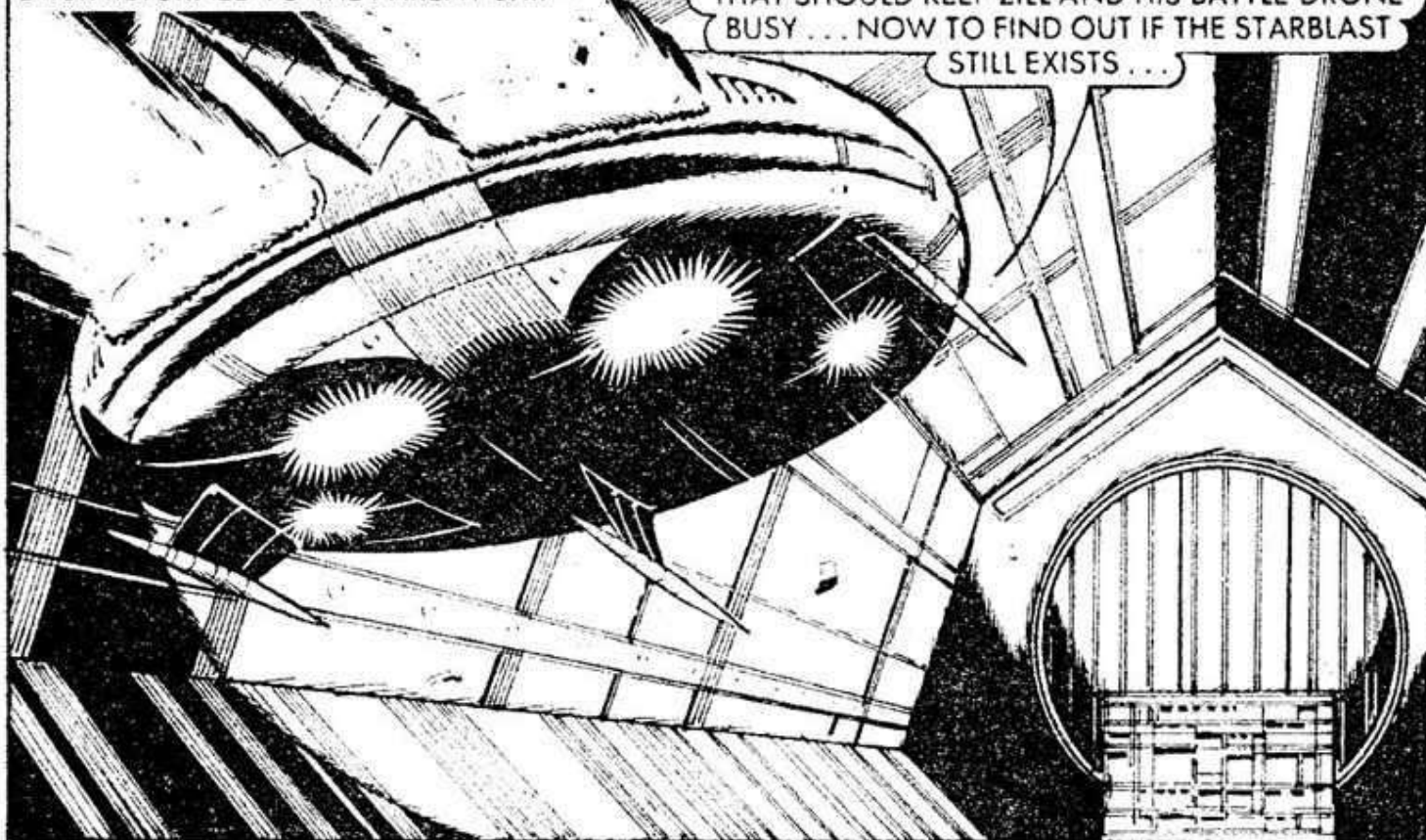


DESPITE THE ROBODROID ATTACKS, DRUK BREACHED THE DOME. THE LOSS OF PRESSURE EXPLODED VIOLENTLY INTO SPACE.



DRUK RETURNED TO THE PARENT SHIP —

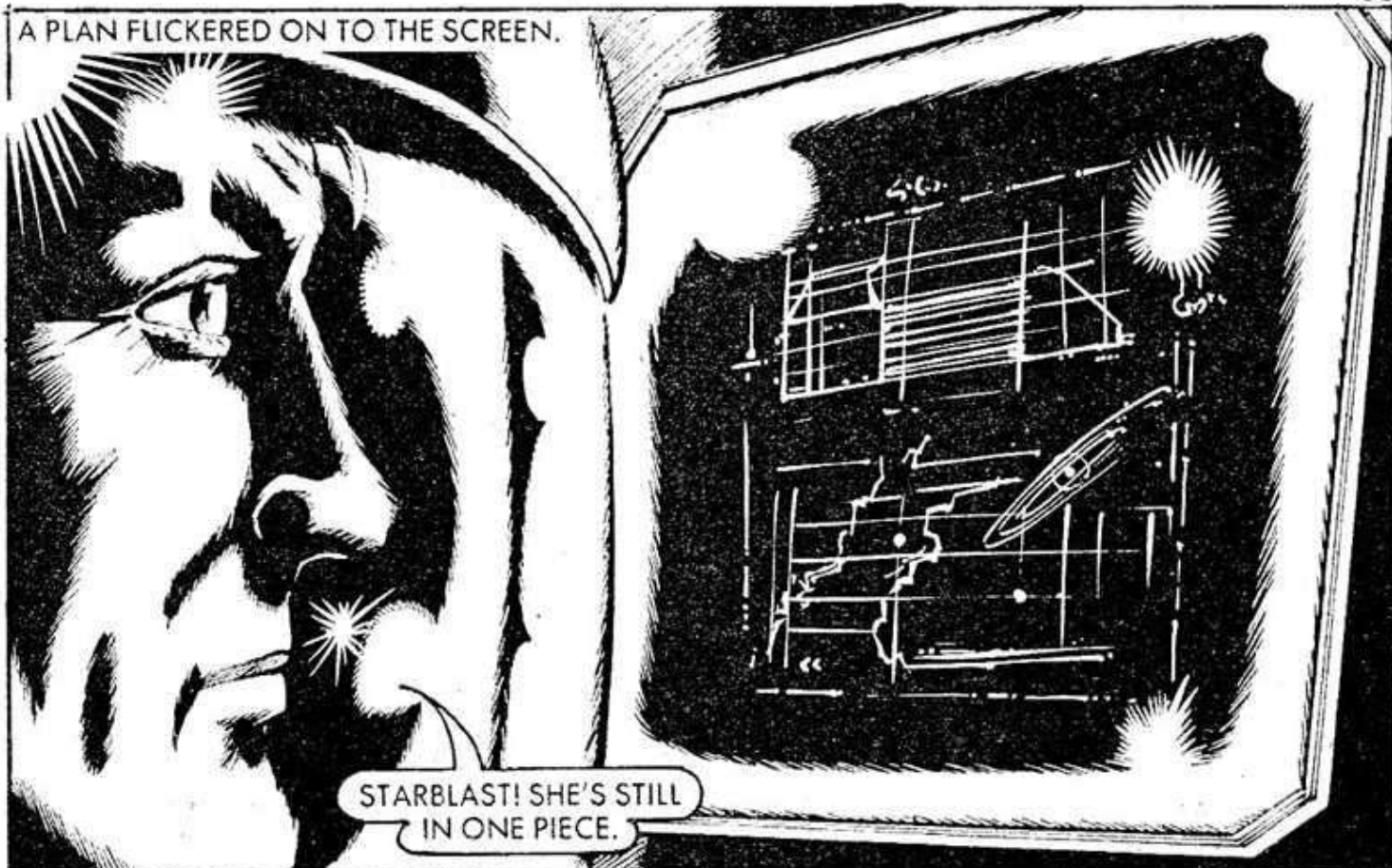
THAT SHOULD KEEP ZILL AND HIS BATTLE-DRONE
BUSY ... NOW TO FIND OUT IF THE STARBLAST
STILL EXISTS ...



DRUK LANDED, WORKED OUT HOW TO OPERATE THE CRAFT'S LOG, AND SEARCHED BACK
TO THE LAST REPORTED POSITION OF STARBLAST.



A PLAN FLICKERED ON TO THE SCREEN.



MEMORISING THE CO-ORDINATES, DRUK HEADED FOR HIS SHIP —



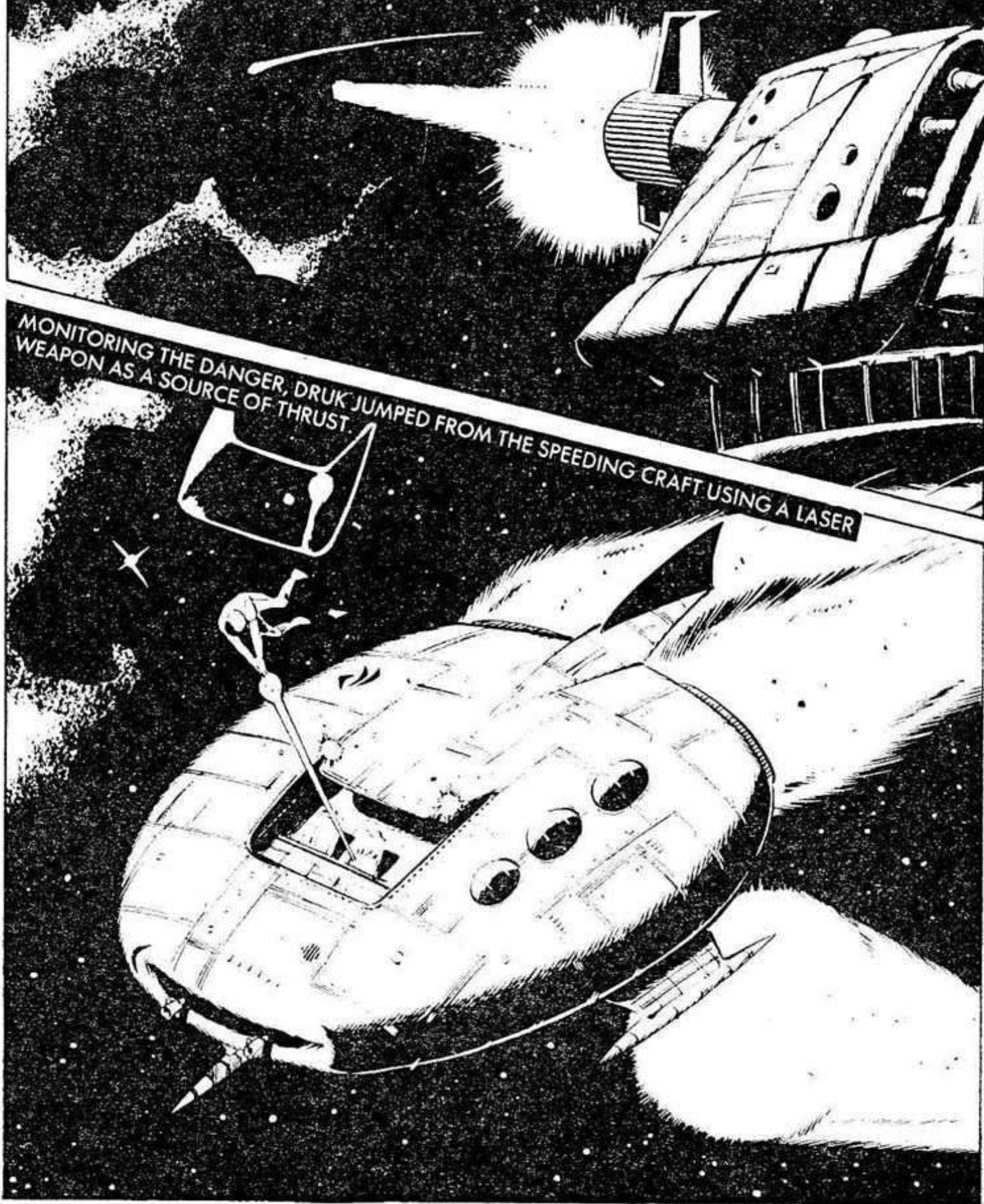
ZILL TRACKED THE LITTLE SHIP, AS IT BLASTED OFF —

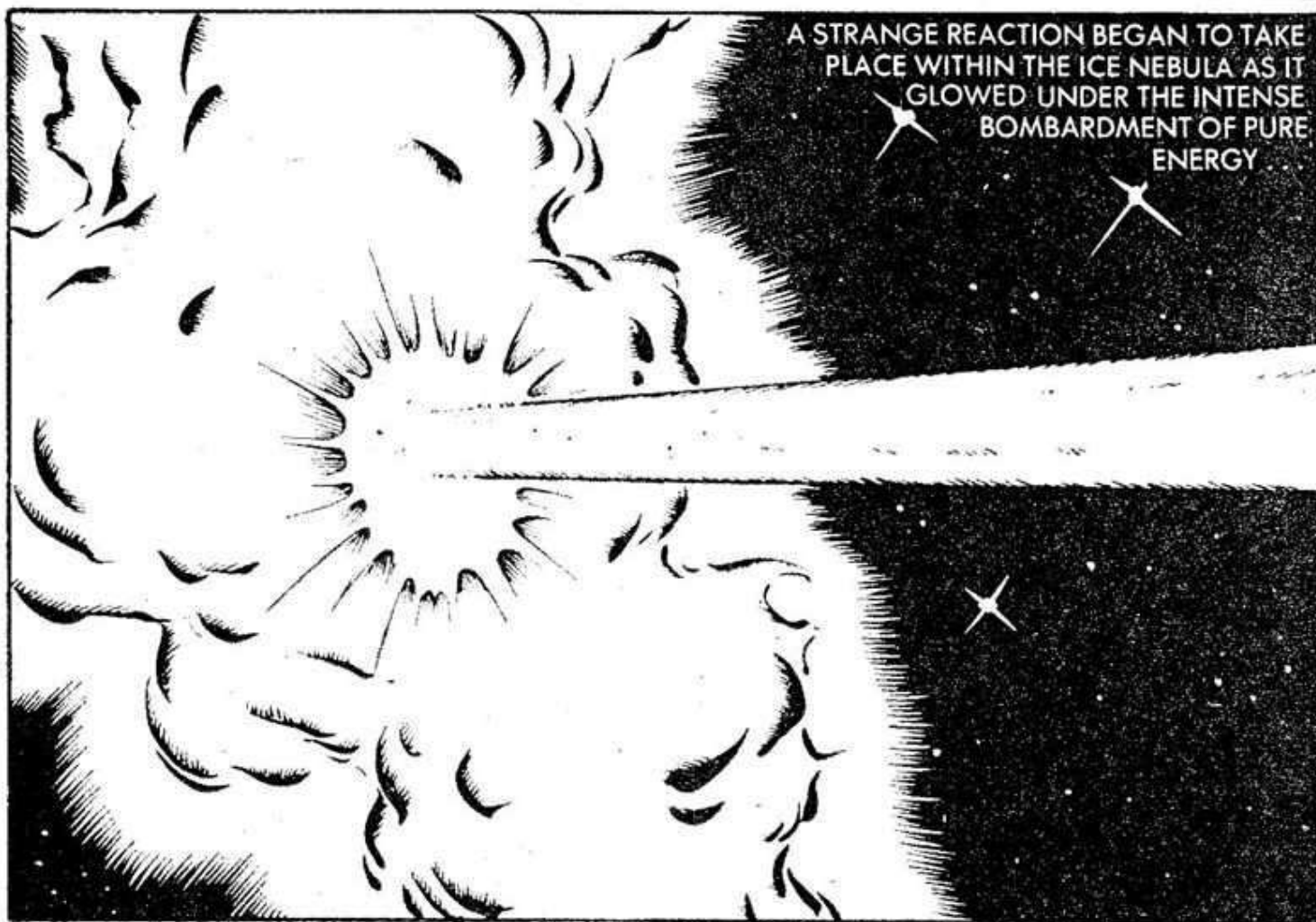
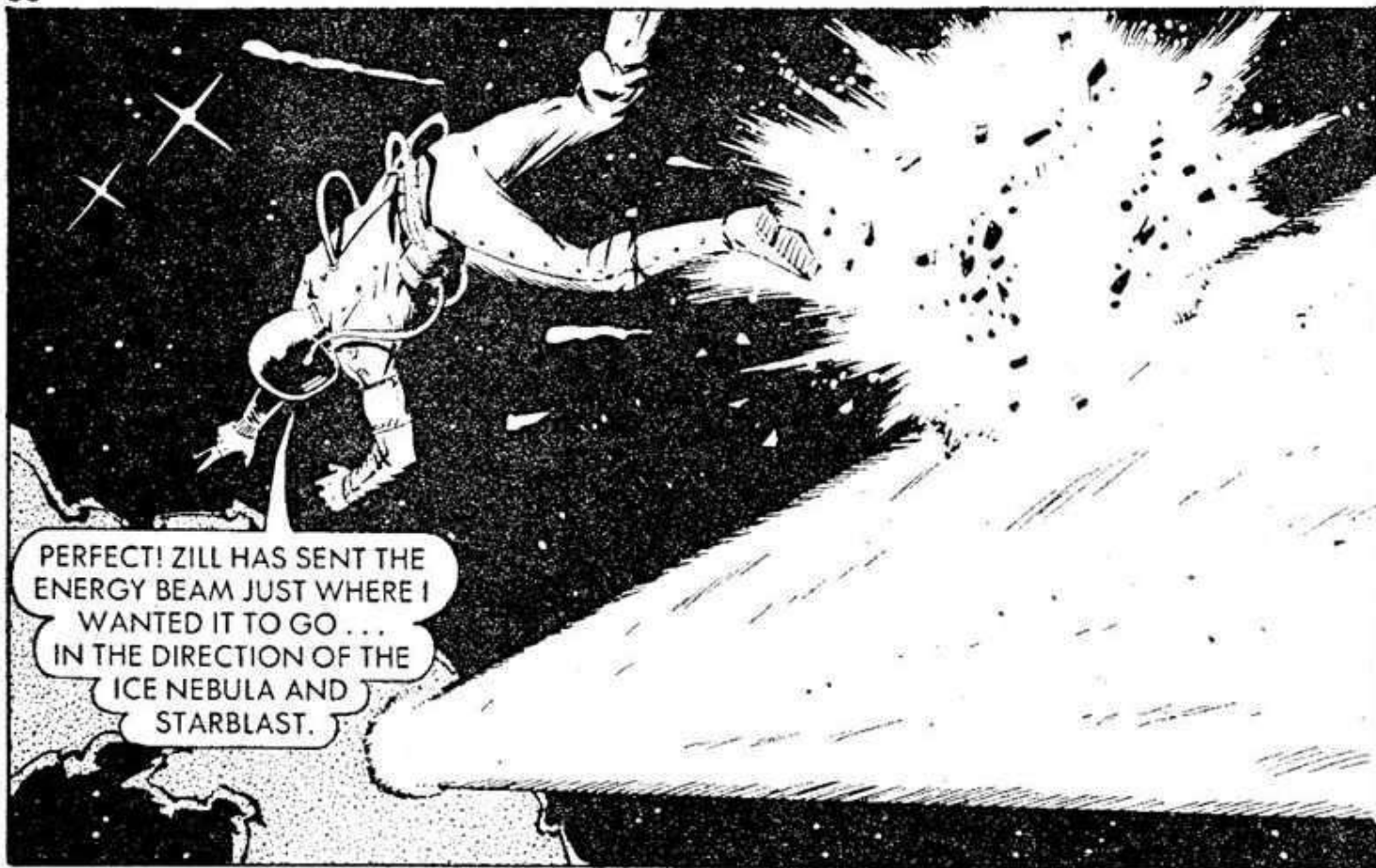


THE PULSE CANNON LINED UP WITH ITS TARGET...



...AND ZILL PRESSED THE FIRING CONTACT.





... RELEASING FROM ITS GRIP THE STARBLAST AND HER CREW.

FEELING RETURNING ... I HAVE
THE STARBLASET UNDER CONTROL.



CAPTAIN TRENT OPENED THE STARBLAST'S POWER FEED AND LEFT THE ICE NEBULA
BEHIND AS HE HEADED FOR THE SHIP THAT ENTOMBED HIM THERE.

CAPTAIN, WE HAVE PICKED UP HUMAN
LIFE READINGS ON OUR SCANNER.

JUST AHEAD ... A FIGURE
IN A SPACE SUIT ...



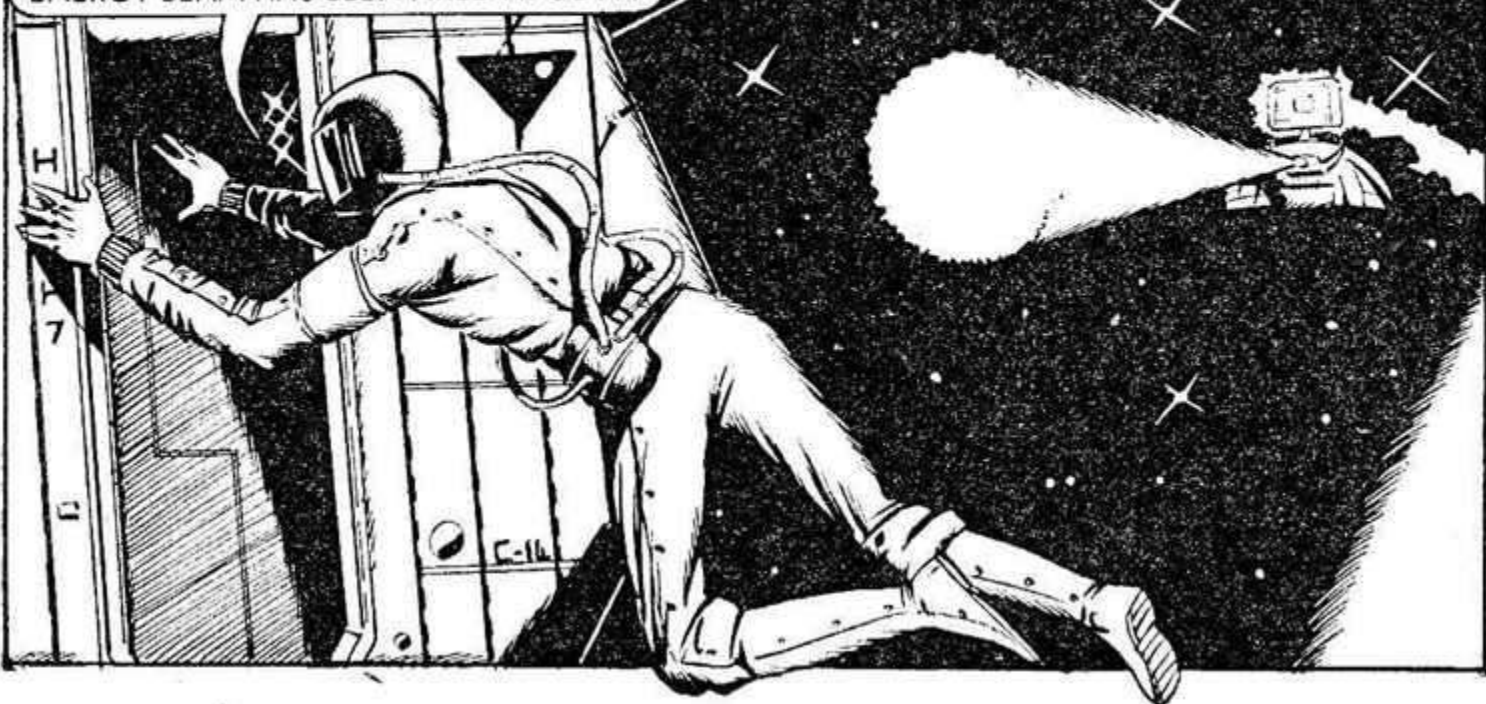
ZILL WAS LESS THAN PLEASED —

I HAVE BEEN TRICKED BY THE HUMAN INTO RELEASING THEIR CRAFT! NO MATTER! ANOTHER BURST FROM THE CANNON WILL DESTROY THEM ALL.

I WILL DESTROY ALL WHO DARE TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF ZILL ...

THE STARBLAST SLOWED —

QUICK! INSIDE THE SHIP. ANOTHER ENERGY BEAM HAS BEEN FIRED AT US ...



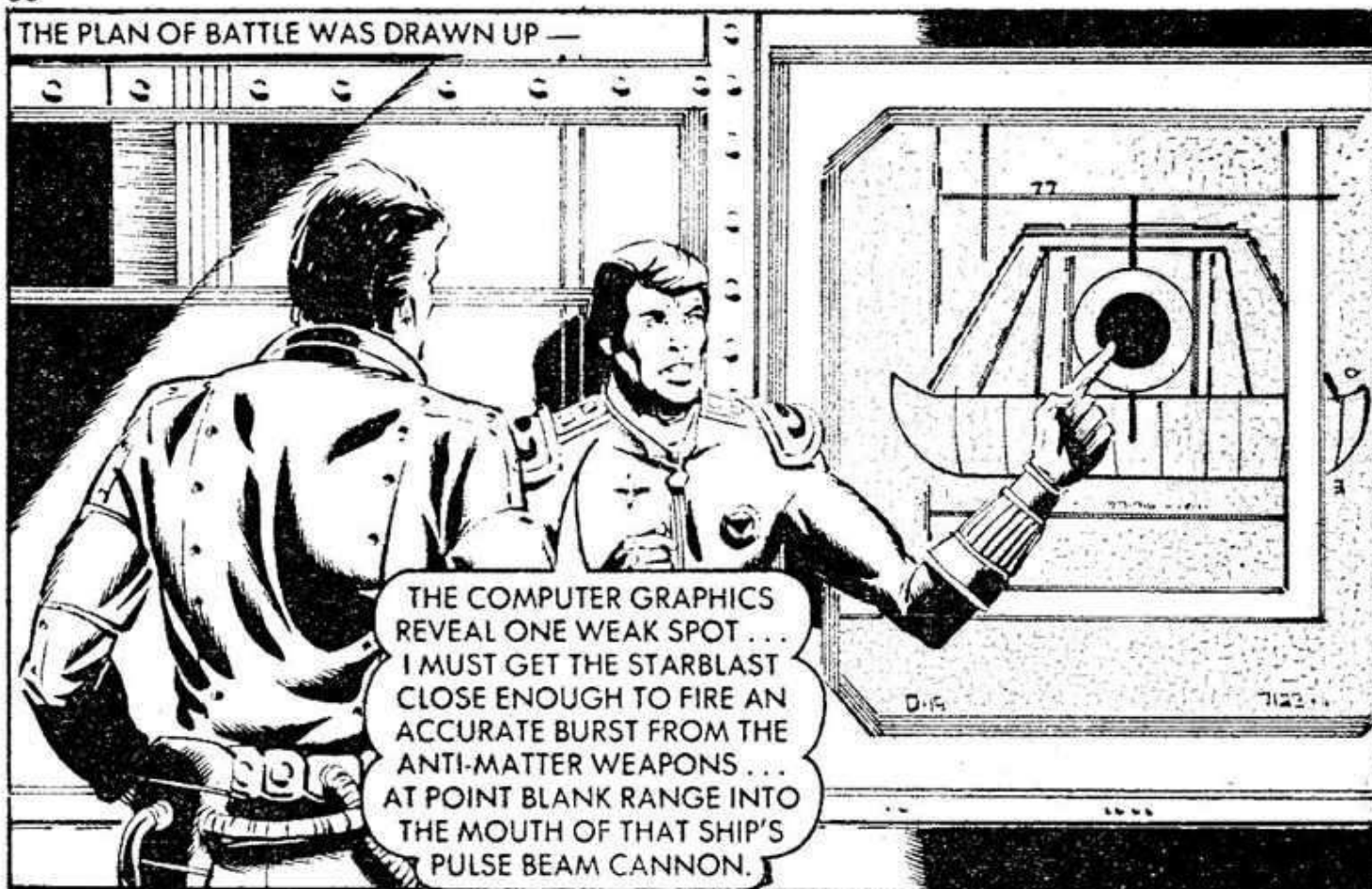
TRENT PULLED STARBLAST OUT OF THE WAY —

WELCOME ABOARD,
MR PRESIDENT ...

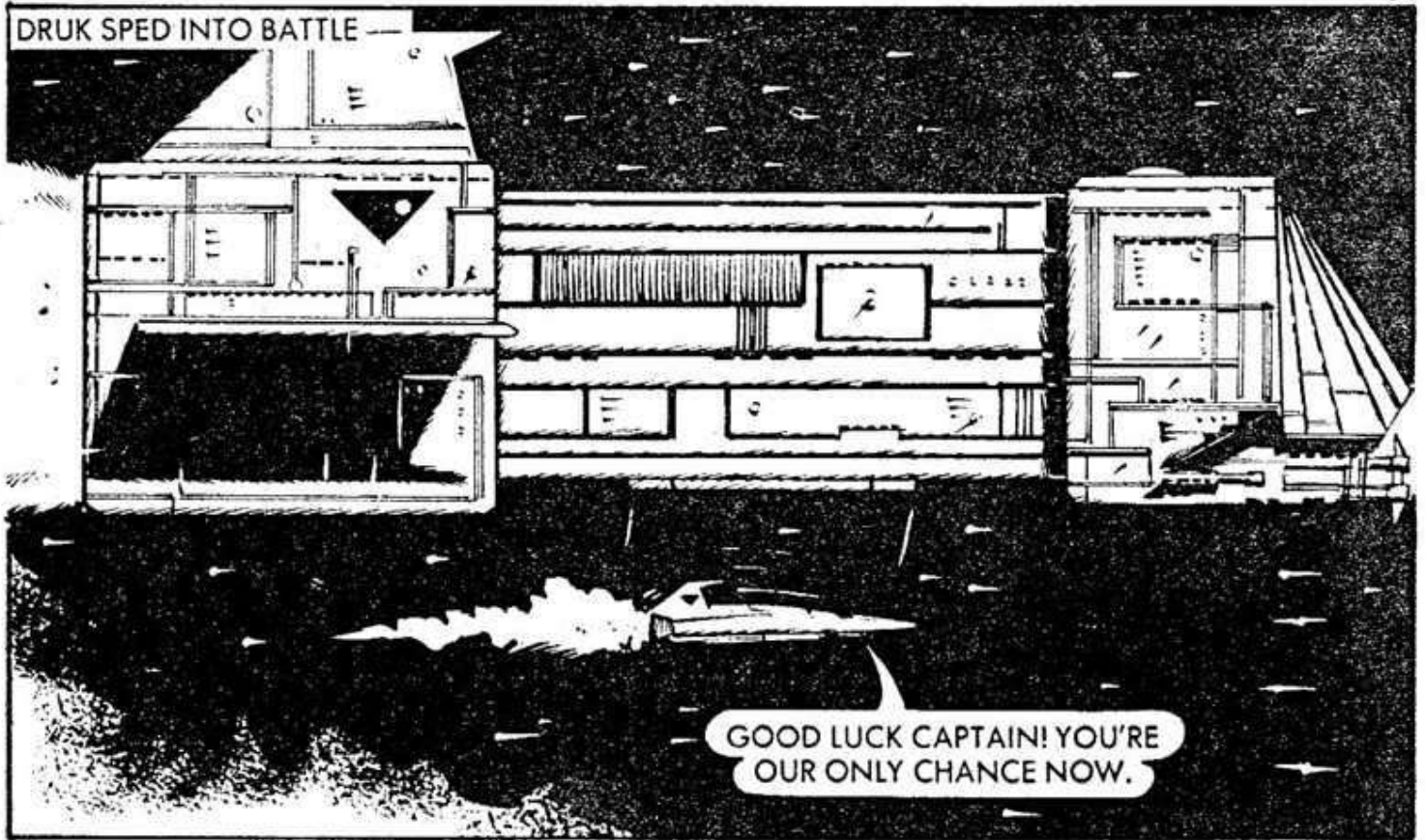
AM I PLEASED TO SEE YOU. YOUR
ANTI-MATTER CANNON ARE THE
ONLY HOPE THAT EARTH HAS LEFT
OF STOPPING ZILL FROM KILLING
OUR SUN.

YOU ARE TOO LATE! IN A MOMENT I WILL HAVE
DRAWN OFF ENOUGH ENERGY FOR THE FINAL
PULSE BEAM TO MY OWN SOLAR SYSTEM. YOUR
SUN WILL DIE.

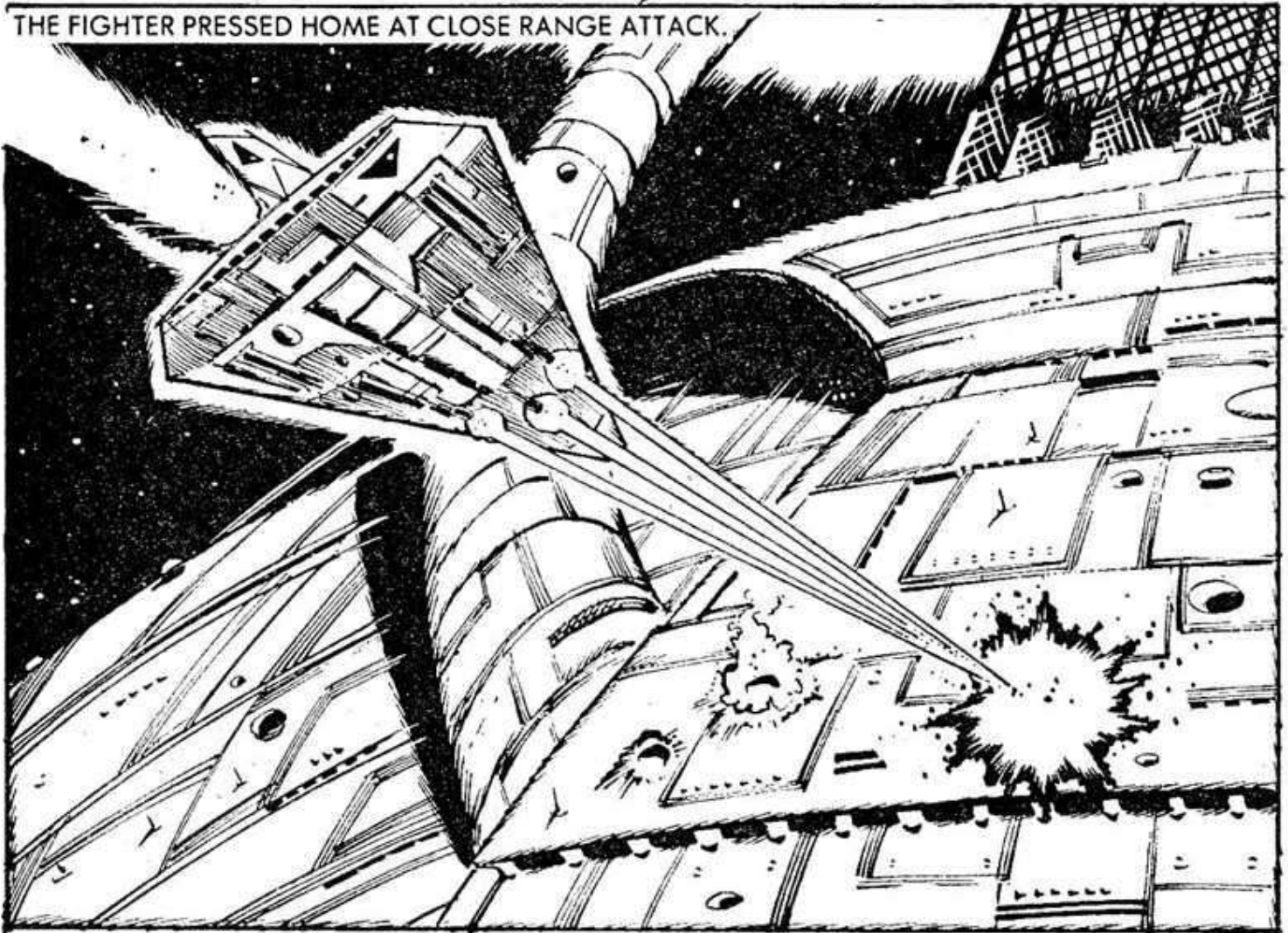
THE PLAN OF BATTLE WAS DRAWN UP —



DRUK SPED INTO BATTLE —

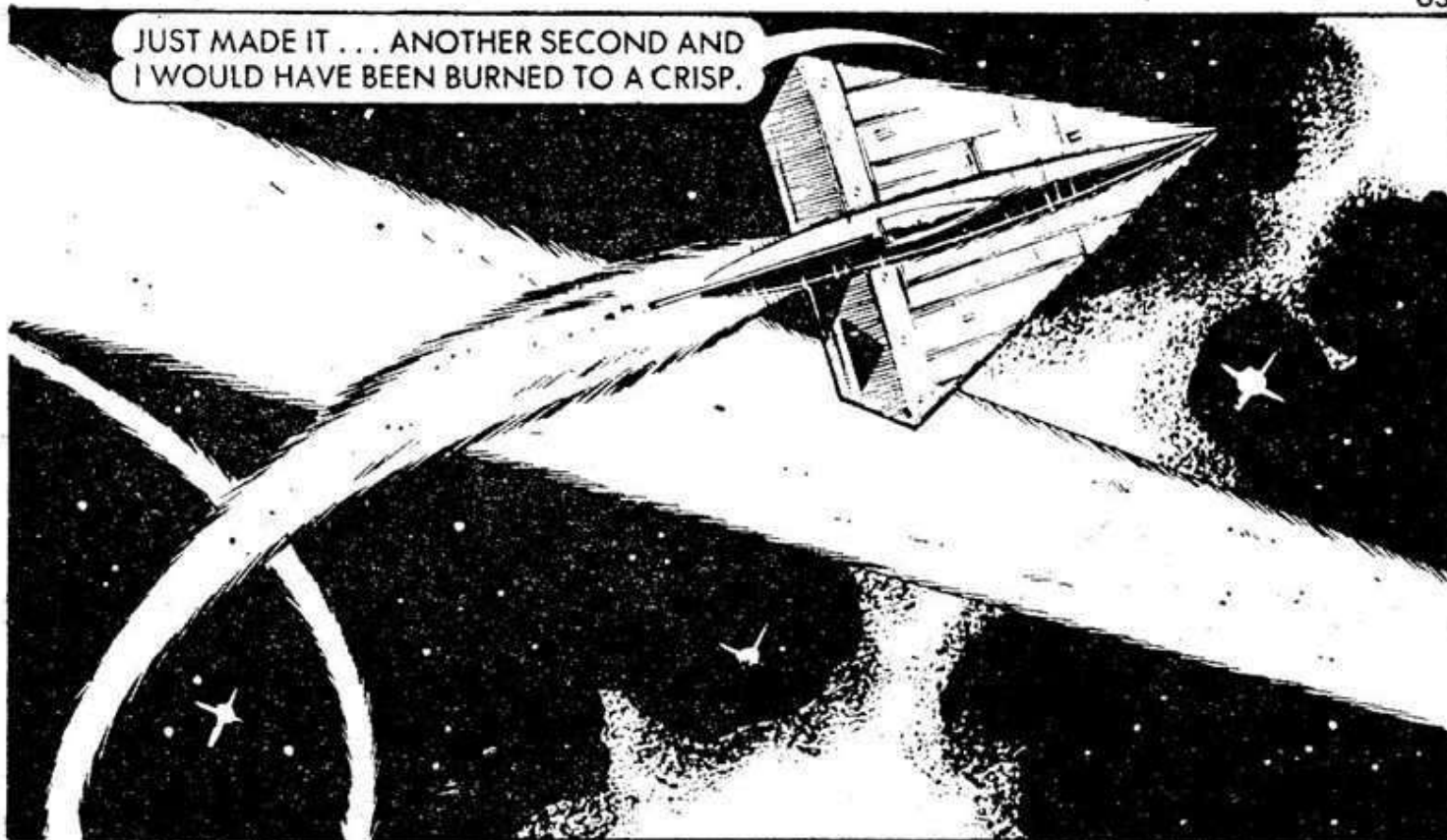


THE FIGHTER PRESSED HOME AT CLOSE RANGE ATTACK.



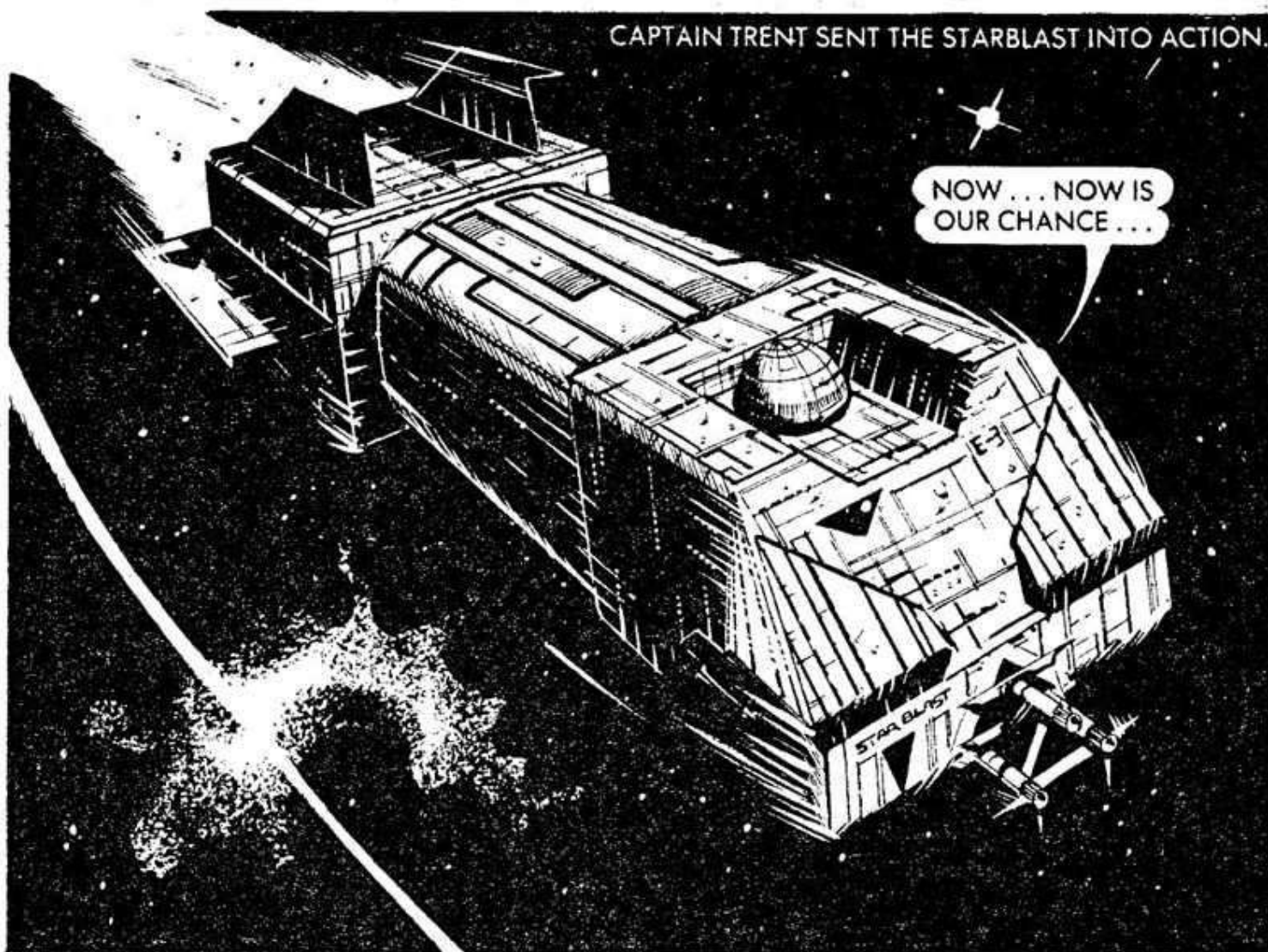


JUST MADE IT . . . ANOTHER SECOND AND
I WOULD HAVE BEEN BURNED TO A CRISP.



CAPTAIN TRENT SENT THE STARBLAST INTO ACTION.

NOW . . . NOW IS
OUR CHANCE . . .



... BUT THE TEMPERATURE BEGAN TO TAKE ITS TOLL ON THE STARBLAST.



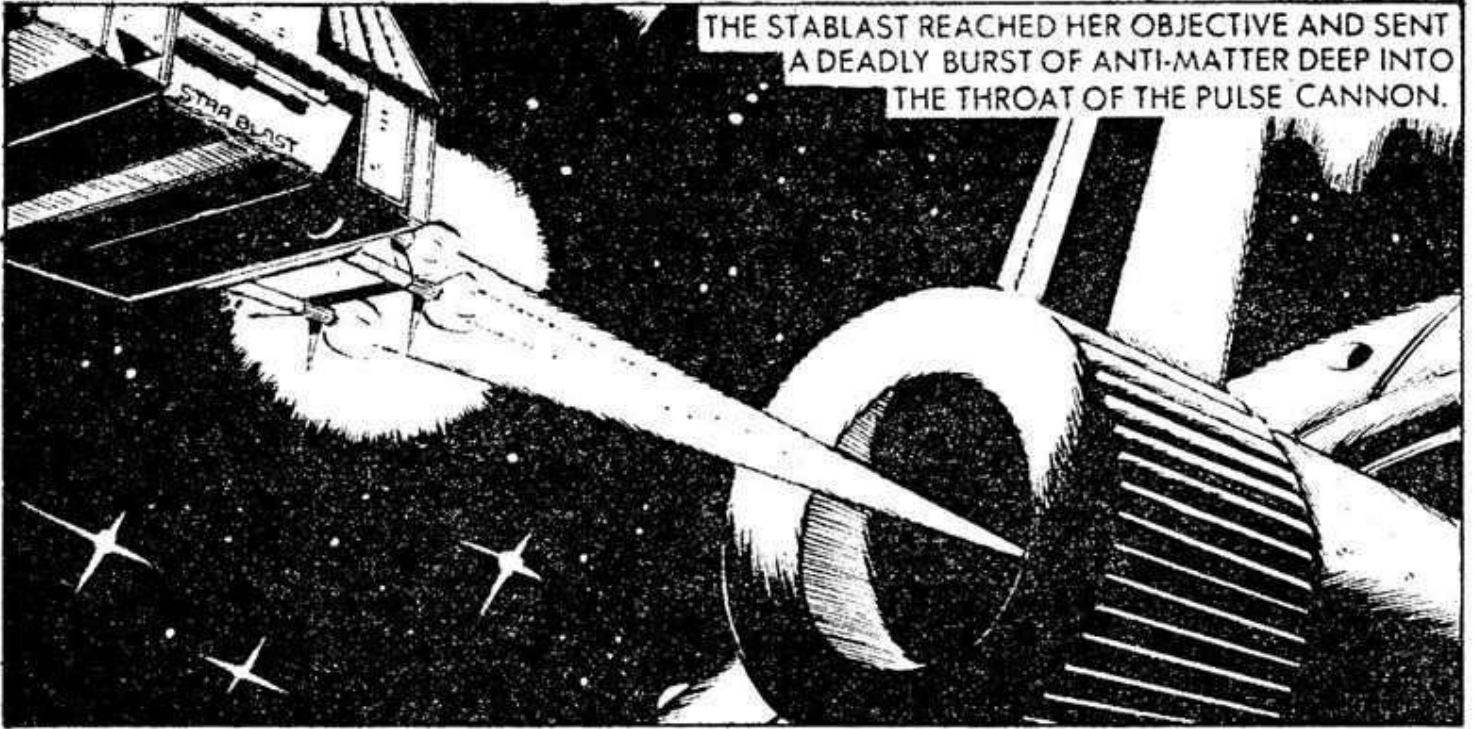
MUST KEEP ON COURSE ... JUST
LONG ENOUGH TO FIRE THE ANTI-MATTER.

ZILL SAW THE DANGER.

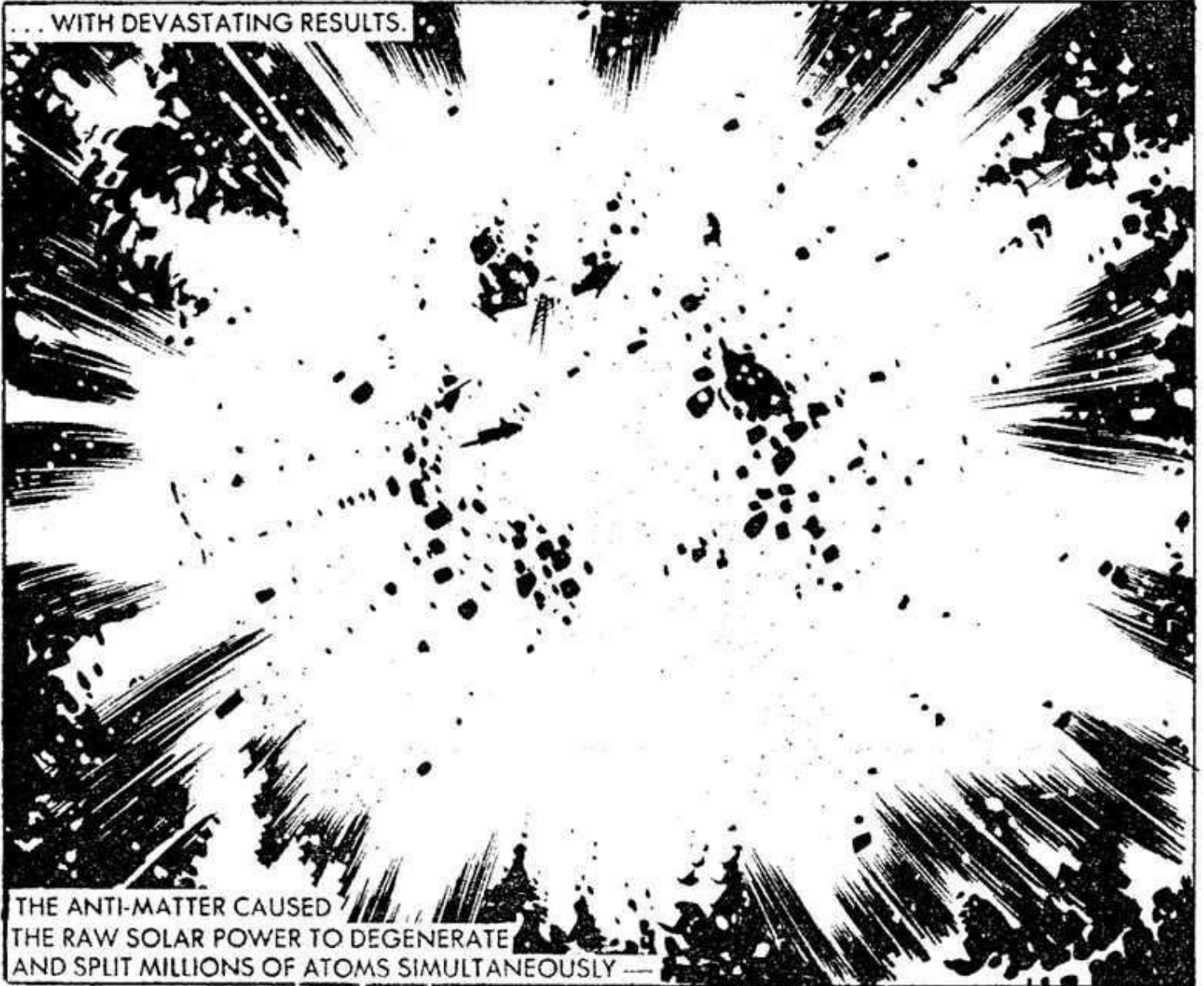
NO ... NO, KEEP
AWAY ... I COMMAND IT ...



THE STABLAST REACHED HER OBJECTIVE AND SENT
A DEADLY BURST OF ANTI-MATTER DEEP INTO
THE THROAT OF THE PULSE CANNON.



... WITH DEVASTATING RESULTS.



THE ANTI-MATTER CAUSED
THE RAW SOLAR POWER TO DEGENERATE
AND SPLIT MILLIONS OF ATOMS SIMULTANEOUSLY —

STARBLAST AND HER TINY FIGHTER ESCORT SET COURSE FOR EARTH.

THE SUN WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL POWER SOON,
MR PRESIDENT. OUR READINGS SHOW NO MAJOR
DAMAGE WAS DONE BY THE ALIEN SHIP.

LET'S JUST HOPE THAT WHEN OUR SUN BURNS BRIGHT
AGAIN IT WILL ACT AS A BEACON TO UNITE MORE
FIRMLY THE PEOPLES OF EARTH...

DON'T FORGET TO READ THIS MONTH'S

OTHER

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 113



THE STONEMEN

ON SALE AT YOUR NEWSAGENT'S



On March 23, 1965, Lieutenant Commander John Watts Young of the United States Navy made the first of his five space flights. Gemini 3 was the craft and the mission lasted 4 hr. 53 min. Listed below are his other flights.

July 18, 1966	Gemini 10	2 days 22 hr. 46 min. 39 sec.
May 18, 1969	Apollo 10	8 days 0 hr. 3 min. 23 sec.
April 16, 1972	Apollo 16 (moon landing)	11 days 1 hr. 51 min. 5 sec.
April 12, 1981	STS1 (1st space shuttle)	2 days 6 hr. 20 min. 52 sec.